

## British Columbia COVID-19 Disclaimer and Data Notes

### Data notes, terms of use, disclaimer and limitation of liability

#### Data Notes – General

The following data notes define the indicators presented on the public dashboard and describe the data sources involved. Data changes daily as new cases are identified, characteristics of reported cases change or are updated, and data corrections are made. For the latest caveats about the data, please refer to the most recent BCCDC Surveillance Report located at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

#### Data Sources

- Case Details and Laboratory Information are updated daily Monday through Friday at 5:00 pm.
- Data on cases is collected by Health Authorities during public health follow-up.
- Total COVID-19 cases include laboratory diagnosed cases (confirmed and probable) as well as epi-linked cases. Definitions can be found at: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/case-definitions/covid-19-\(novel-coronavirus\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/case-definitions/covid-19-(novel-coronavirus)). Prior to June 4, 2020, the total number of cases included only laboratory diagnosed cases. Starting June 4, probable epi-linked cases became reportable as a separate category. Epi-linked cases identified during case investigations since May 19, 2020 – the date BC entered Phase 2 of its Restart Plan - are now included in the case total, but are not considered New Cases unless they were reported in the last 24 hours.
- Laboratory data is supplied by the B.C. Centre for Disease Control Public Health Laboratory; tests performed for other provinces have been excluded.
- Data on intensive care unit (ICU) admissions is provided by the PHSA Critical Care Working Group.

BCCDC/PHSA/B.C. Ministry of Health data sources are available at the links below:

- [Case Data \(spatial\)](#)
- [Case Details](#)
- [Laboratory Testing Information](#)

#### Data Over Time

- The number of laboratory tests performed and positivity rate over time are reported by the date of test result. On March 16, testing recommendations changed to focus on hospitalized patients, healthcare workers, long term care facility staff and residents, and those part of a cluster or outbreak who are experiencing respiratory symptoms. The current day is excluded from all laboratory indicators.
- The number of new cases over time are reported by the date they are notified to public health.

#### Epidemiologic Indicators

- Cases have ‘Recovered’ when the criteria outlined in BC guidelines for public health management of COVID-19 ([http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Epid/CD%20Manual/Chapter%201%20-%20CDC/2019-nCoV-Interim\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Epid/CD%20Manual/Chapter%201%20-%20CDC/2019-nCoV-Interim_Guidelines.pdf)) are met. These are the same criteria that are met for cases to “Discontinue Isolation” and the terms are sometimes used interchangeably.
- New Cases are those reported daily in the Provincial Health Officer’s press briefing and reflect the difference in counts between one day and the next as of 10:00 am (net new). This may not be equal to the number of cases reported to public health by calendar day, as: (1) cases reported prior to 10am would be included as new cases in the current day’s count and cases reported after 10am would be included in the next day’s count; and (2) there may be some delays between cases being reported to public health and then reported provincially and (3) cases may be attributed to different health authorities or may be excluded from case counts as new information is obtained. Because of the 10:00 am cut-off, the most recent day in time series graphs may contain only partial information. On Mondays, the number of new cases includes the number of new cases in the 24 hr period between Sunday 10am and Monday 10am.
- ICU values include the number of COVID-19 patients in all critical care beds (e.g., intensive care units; high acuity units; and other surge critical care spaces as they become available and/or required). Current ICU admissions are those reported daily in the PHO press briefing and may change over time due to small adjustments and improvements in data quality.
- Active cases exclude those cases who have died, recovered/discontinued isolation or been lost to follow up.

### Laboratory Indicators

- Total tests represent the cumulative number of COVID-19 tests since testing began mid-January. Only tests for residents of B.C. are included.
- New tests represent the number of COVID-19 tests performed in the 24 hour period prior to date of the dashboard update.
- COVID-19 positivity rate is calculated as the number of positive specimens that day/total number of specimens tested (positive, negative, and indeterminate) that day.
- Turn-around time is calculated as the daily average time (in hours) between specimen collection and report of a test result. Turn-around time includes the time to ship specimens to the lab; patients who live farther away are expected to have slightly longer average turn around times.
- The rate of COVID-19 testing per million population is defined as the cumulative number of *people* tested for COVID-19/BC population x 1,000,000. B.C. and Canadian rates are obtained from the map (Figure 1) available in the Public Health Agency of Canada’s Daily Epidemiologic Update: <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html> by selecting Rate and Individuals Tested. Please note: the same person may be tested multiple times, thus it is not possible to derive this rate directly from the # of cumulative tests reported on the BC COVID dashboard.
- Testing context: COVID-19 diagnostic testing and laboratory test guidelines have changed in British Columbia over time. BC’s testing strategy has been characterized by four phases: 1) Exposure-based testing, 2) Targeted testing, 3) Expanded testing, and 4) Symptom-based testing. While COVID-19 testing was originally centralized at the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory (BCPHL), testing capacity expanded to other BC laboratories over time. Additional details on the timing and definition of test

phases and decentralization of testing can be found at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/phases-of-covid-19-testing-in-bc>

### Global indicators

- COVID cases for BC and other Canadian provinces/territories reflect what is reported in daily public briefings by each respective government.
- COVID confirmed cases for other countries comes from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University: [https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19/blob/master/csse\\_covid\\_19\\_data/csse\\_covid\\_19\\_time\\_series/time\\_series\\_covid19\\_confirmed\\_global.csv](https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19/blob/master/csse_covid_19_data/csse_covid_19_time_series/time_series_covid19_confirmed_global.csv)
- The population data for other countries is from the United Nations (medium variant for 2020): <https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>
- The population data for Canadian provinces is from Statistics Canada (Q1 2020): <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710000901>
- Each jurisdiction's epidemic curve has been scaled to start at the date when the jurisdiction reached a rate of 2 cases per 1 million population. This makes countries more directly comparable in terms of relative timing of the epidemic curve.
- Rates are expressed as cumulative confirmed cases per million population and as new daily confirmed cases per million population.
- A 7-day moving average is used to smooth new daily case rates to mitigate the impact of short-term fluctuations and to more clearly identify trends over time.

### Health Authority Assignment

- As of July 9, cases are reported by health authority of residence. When health authority of residence is not available, cases are assigned to the health authority reporting the case. Cases whose primary residence is outside of Canada are reported as "Out of Canada". Previously, cases were assigned to the health authority that reported the case. Please note that the health authority of residence and the health authority reporting the case do not necessarily indicate the location of exposure or transmission.
- For lab data, health Authority is assigned by place of residence; when not available, by location of the provider ordering the lab test. Delays in assignment may occur such that the total number of BC tests performed may be greater than the sum of tests done in specific Health Authorities.

### Terms of use, disclaimer and limitation of liability

Although every effort has been made to provide accurate information, the Province of British Columbia, including the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, the Provincial Health Services Authority and the British Columbia Ministry of Health makes no representation or warranties regarding the accuracy of the information in the dashboard and the associated data, nor will it accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Data may not reflect the current situation, and therefore should only be used for reference purposes. Access to and/or content of this dashboard and associated data may be suspended, discontinued, or altered, in part or in whole, at any time, for any reason, with or without prior notice, at the discretion of the Province of British Columbia.

Anyone using this information does so at his or her own risk, and by using such information agrees to indemnify the Province of British Columbia, including the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, the Provincial Health Services Authority and the British Columbia Ministry of Health and its content providers from any and all liability, loss, injury, damages, costs and expenses (including legal fees and expenses) arising from such person's use of the information on this website.

© Province of British Columbia

[BCCDC](#), [PHSA](#), [B.C. Ministry of Health](#) and [GeoBC](#)

[COPYRIGHT](#) | [DISCLAIMER](#) | [PRIVACY](#)