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Canadian provincial and territorial public health response to SARS-CoV-2 and variants of concern

A jurisdictional scan including select European countries

Updated: August 20, 2021

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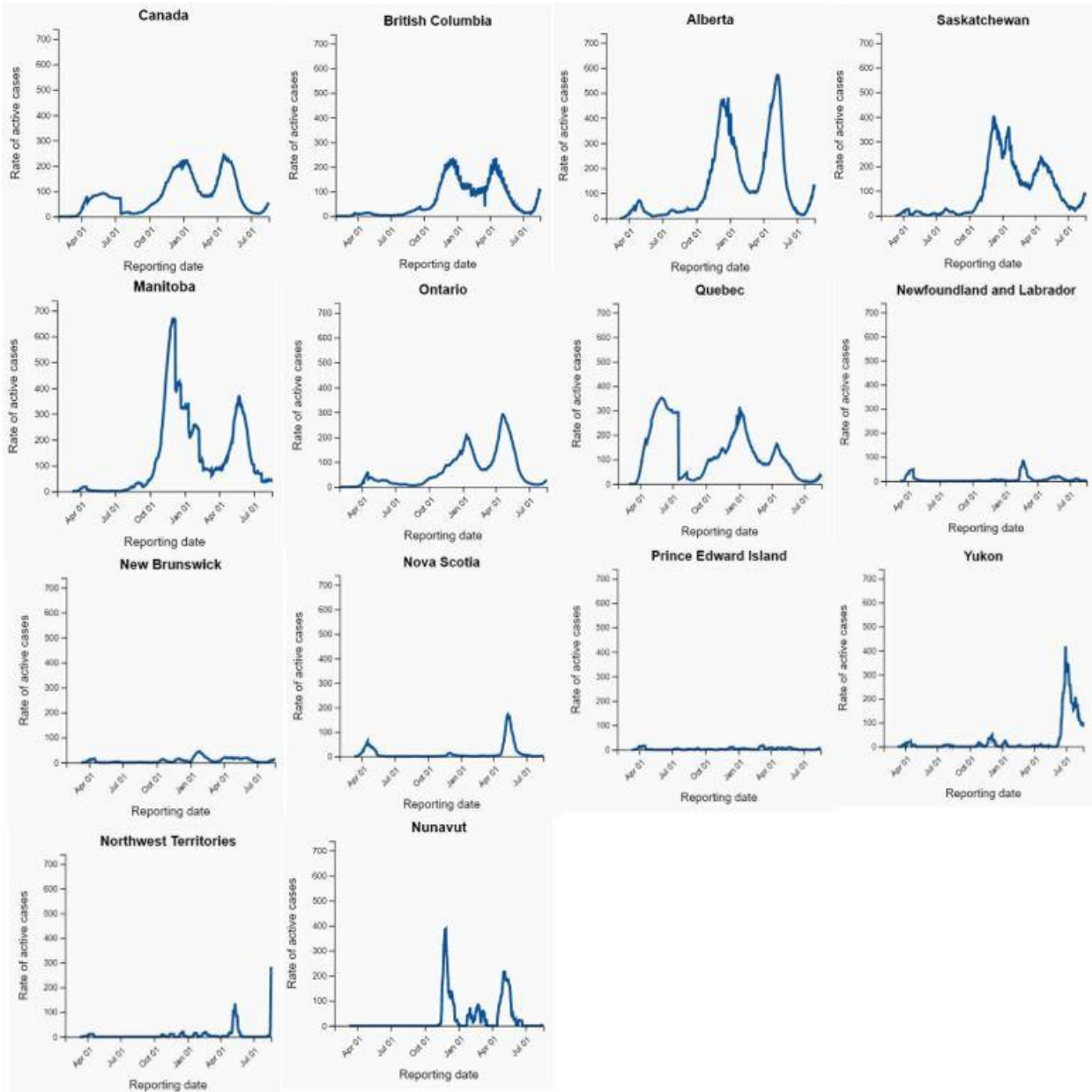
Evidence up to August 19, 2021

Introduction

The SARS-CoV-2 virus, responsible for COVID-19, was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2020.¹ As of August 19, 2021, over 209 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported worldwide and more than 4.3 million people have died as a result of COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.² Increased numbers of COVID-19 cases are causing significant concerns around identifying optimal vaccination strategies and enforcing appropriate public health measures to manage the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Figure 1 is a composite of 14 graphs—one for all of Canada and one for each of the provinces and territories—published by the Public Health Agency of Canada’s Public Health Infobase.³ They are visual representations of the rate of active cases per 100,000 population and the progression of cases over the period from March 31, 2020, to August 18, 2021.

Figure 1. Rate of active cases in Canada per 100,000 population from March 31, 2020, to August 18, 2021³



As of August 19, 2021, four variants of the original SARS-CoV-2 lineage have been declared variants of concern (VOC) by the WHO, with other variants under ongoing assessment.⁴ VOC are defined by their increased potential for transmission, presence of genomic mutations, and rapid spread across countries or regions leading to possible decreased effectiveness of public health measures.⁵ The increased transmissibility of VOC has led to surges in COVID-19 incidence and consequently, hospitalizations and mortality.⁶

The purpose of this jurisdictional scan was to compile Canadian provincial and territorial public health guidance relating to COVID-19 and the VOC between August 8 and 18, 2021, as well as

guidance from Belgium and Germany from the same time-period. This snapshot provides an overview of each region's vaccine rollout, proof of vaccination requirements, isolation and quarantine requirements, travel restrictions, and gathering limits, as well as whether or not any of this guidance has been influenced by VOC.

Key Points of Interest

- Very little guidance mentions VOC explicitly. It may be assumed that the prevalence of VOC in a region at any given time has an implicit impact on public health measures.
- Vaccination is now available to everyone aged 12+ in every province and territory, and in Germany and Belgium. All provinces/territories are on the penultimate or final step of their reopening plans.
- Some provinces/territories such as Manitoba and Nova Scotia have vaccination strategies/campaigns to support Indigenous populations.
- Ontario is the only Canadian province offering third doses. Belgium and Germany are planning to offer third doses in the coming weeks.
- Quebec will require proof of vaccination for non-essential activities starting in September, while Manitoba allows businesses to ask for proof at their own discretion. Ontario requires long-term care workers to be vaccinated. No other province/territory requires proof for activities within the province.
- No changes have been made to hand washing, masking, or physical distancing requirements due to VOC.
- For confirmed COVID-19 cases, 10-14 days of isolation is required in most provinces/territories, while some consider length of isolation on a case-by-case basis. Alberta will be lifting this requirement in September. Belgium and Germany require 10 days of isolation.
- 14 days of quarantine for close contacts is required in most provinces/territories and Germany and Belgium, with some exceptions for fully vaccinated individuals. Alberta no longer requires quarantine of close contacts.
- No quarantine is required after entering Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, or Yukon from within Canada. In all other provinces/territories and Belgium and Germany, exemptions from/modifications to quarantine apply to partially or fully vaccinated individuals.
- Attendance limits on private and public gatherings vary widely between regions.

Prevalence of VOC in Canada

As of August 20, 2021, VOC (particularly the Delta variant) were the prevalent strains of SARS-CoV-2 circulating in Canada and were the driving force behind any increases in cases beginning in January 2021. It may therefore be assumed that any changes in public health guidance in 2021 were made in response to rises in cases as a result of VOC, even if this is not explicitly stated in guidance.

Proof of Vaccination Requirements in Post-Secondary Institutions

This jurisdictional scan was limited to public health guidance issued by provincial/territorial or federal governments. As such, we do not report on proof of vaccination requirements at post-secondary institutions, which are privately governed. However, we note a number of signals indicating potential policy/recommendation changes related to mandatory vaccination for staff, faculty and students at various universities and colleges across Canada. This topic may be included in future updates of this report.

Variants of Concern Jurisdictional Scan of Provincial/Territorial Public Health Guidance

Updated: August 19, 2021

Table 1. Vaccine rollout and recommendations for behaviour post-vaccination

Jurisdiction	What percentage of the population is vaccinated with one dose? Two doses?	What is the current rollout/ vaccine promotion approach (e.g., priority groups, at-risk populations)?	Is there a reopening plan in place? If so, which phase is currently enacted?	Does the government require proof of vaccination for activities (e.g., work, school, going to restaurants) within the province/region? If so, when is proof required?
AB	<p>76.9% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose (65.4% total population)⁸</p> <p>68.0% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (57.9% total population)⁸</p>	<p>First dose available to anyone aged 12+; second dose available to anyone aged 12+ for whom 28 days have elapsed since first dose⁹</p> <p>Temporary walk-in clinics available for first doses¹⁰; appointments required for second doses⁹</p> <p>Lottery entry for \$1 million and other prizes offered as an incentive to get 2 doses¹⁰</p> <p>3rd dose: Not required at this time⁹</p>	<p>Yes, Stage 3 (of 3) is currently in effect</p> <p>Criteria for current phase: 70%+ of people aged 12+ have received at least first dose¹¹</p>	No
BC	83.9% of eligible (12+) population has received at least	First dose available to anyone aged 12+; second dose available to anyone aged 12+ for whom 28 days have elapsed since first dose; appointments or drop-in clinics available, including some	<p>Yes, Step 3 (of 4) is currently in effect</p> <p>Criteria for current phase: 70%+ of people aged 18+ have</p>	No

	<p>one dose (74.2% total population) ^{12*1}</p> <p>74.1% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (65.6% total population) ^{12*}</p>	<p>dedicated Indigenous drop-in clinics with cultural supports ¹³</p> <p>3rd dose: Not required at this time ¹³</p>	<p>received at least first dose, plus low case/hospitalization rates ¹⁴</p>	
MB	<p>81.0% of eligible population (those born before December 31, 2009) has received at least one dose ¹⁵ (70.5% total population) ^{16*}</p> <p>74.4% of eligible population (those born before December 31, 2009) fully vaccinated ¹⁵ (64.2% total population) ^{16*}</p> <p>Notably, Manitoba reports number of doses administered in First Nations communities on its Manitoba COVID-19 Vaccinations dashboard ¹⁵</p>	<p>Doses available to anyone aged 12+ ¹⁷; appointments required, but pop-up clinics are being launched in rural and northern communities and urban Indigenous communities ¹⁸</p> <p>3rd dose: Not required at this time ¹⁷</p>	<p>Yes, the Second Milestone (of three) of the plan has been reached</p> <p>Criteria for current phase: 75%+ of people aged 12+ have received first dose and 50%+ have received second dose ¹⁹</p>	<p>No government mandates are in effect, but government-issued Immunization Cards may be required for entry to sports and entertainment venues, restaurants, bars, and other businesses at their discretion ²⁰</p>
NB	<p>83.4% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose ²¹ (73.8% total population) ^{22*}</p> <p>71.5% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated ²¹ (63.3% total population) ^{22*}</p>	<p>Doses available to anyone aged 12+; appointments or drop-in clinics available, including some mobile vaccination clinics ²³</p> <p>3rd dose: Not required at this time ²³</p>	<p>Yes, Green Level (final level) currently in effect</p> <p>Criteria for current phase: 75%+ of people aged 12+ have received at least first dose ²⁴</p>	<p>No</p>
NL	<p>85.2% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose ²⁵ (79.1% total population) ^{26*}</p>	<p>First dose available to anyone aged 12+; second dose available to anyone aged 12+ for whom 28</p>	<p>Yes, Step 2 (of 3) is currently in effect</p>	<p>Considered as of May 26, 2021; no updates since ²⁹</p>

¹ *Where data on vaccine coverage as a percentage of the population are not available directly from government COVID-19 dashboards or websites, they are taken from the COVID-19 Vaccination Tracker Canada project website (<https://covid19tracker.ca/vaccinationtracker.html>). These citations are indicated by asterisks. Data are aggregated by volunteers exclusively from official government sources data for every region in Canada.

	69.4% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated ²⁵ (64.5% total population) ^{26*}	days have elapsed since first dose; appointments required ²⁷ 3rd dose: Not required at this time ²⁷	Criteria for current phase: 80%+ of people aged 12+ have received first dose and 50%+ have received second dose, plus low case/hospitalization rates) ²⁸	
NS	85.9% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose ^{30*} (77.1% total population) ³¹ 76.1% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated ^{30*} (68.2% total population) ³¹	First dose available to anyone aged 12+; second dose available to anyone aged 12+ for whom 28 days have elapsed since first dose; appointments required in most cases as the majority of walk-in clinics have closed, but two walk-in clinics still available in Central Zone ³² First Nations hosting their vaccine clinics in local health centres in 13 Mi'kmaw communities across province ³² 3rd dose: Not required at this time ³²	Yes, Phase 4 (of 5) is currently in effect ³³ Criteria for current phase: 75%+ of total population (not just eligible population) has received first dose, plus low case/hospitalization rates ³⁴	No
NT	78% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose (66% total population) ³⁵ 74% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (62% total population) ³⁵	Doses available to anyone aged 12+ who are turning 12 the year of vaccination, regardless of birth month ³⁶ Appointments required; communities lacking access to vaccines are able to request clinics ³⁶ 3rd dose: Not required at this time ³⁶	Yes, Emerging Wisely 2021 plan currently in effect, but plan does not have concrete phases or criteria for progression ³⁷	No, will follow federal recommendations ³⁸
NU	80% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose ³⁹ (58.8% total population) ^{40*}	Doses available to anyone aged 12+; appointments required; remote community clinics open	Yes, a plan is currently in effect, but it does not have concrete phases or criteria for progression. Regions within NU	No

	70% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated ³⁹ (51.5% total population) ^{40*}	for limited periods of time for first and second doses ³⁹ 3rd dose: Not required at this time ³⁹	will reopen based on vaccination status, COVID-19 case numbers, testing & response capacity, and the emergence of VOC ⁴¹	
ON	82.3% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose ⁴² (72.0% total population) ^{43*} 74.3% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated ⁴² (65.0% total population) ^{43*}	Doses available to anyone aged 12+; appointments required; some walk-in available in pharmacy ⁴⁴ , more vaccines are being sent to “hot spot” communities ⁴² 3rd dose: now being offered to select vulnerable populations (e.g. transplant recipients) ⁴⁵	Yes, Step 3 (final step before “exiting” the plan); currently pausing the exit from the “Roadmap to Reopen” due to high Delta cases ⁴⁶ Criteria for current phase: 70-80%+ of adults (no age specified) have received first dose and 25% have received second dose ⁴⁷	Yes, proof of vaccination is required to work in long term care ⁴⁸
PE	90% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose ⁴⁹ (78.8% total population) ^{50*} 71.6% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated ⁴⁹ (62.7% total population) ^{50*}	Doses available to anyone aged 12+; appointments required ⁵¹ Some doses were administered through schools for children aged 12-15 ⁵¹ 3rd dose: Not required at this time ⁵¹	Yes, Step 4 (of 5) is currently in effect Criteria for current phase: Increasing levels of vaccination (no percentages provided) and low case rates in PE and throughout Atlantic Canada and the rest of the country ⁵²	No
QC	85.3% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose ^{53*} (75.0% total population) ⁵⁴ 73.8% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (64.3% total population) ^{53*}	Doses available to anyone aged 12+; appointments or walk-in clinics available ⁵⁵ 3rd dose: Not required at this time ⁵⁵	Yes, Green Level is currently in effect; looking to end colour levels end of August or later Criteria for current phase: 75%+ of adults (no age specified) have received first dose ⁵⁶	Yes, target date for “vaccination passport” implementation is September 1, 2021. Details are still unconfirmed, but the passport will likely be required for high-risk activities with a limited number of people (e.g., gyms, team sports, bars, restaurants) and moderate- or low-risk activities with bigger groups of people (e.g., arts and entertainment, festivals and major events, games at sports

				stadiums). It will not be required for essential activities like school, or to hire workers ⁵⁷
SK	<p>As of August 17, 771,170 people have received one dose. 677,198 people are fully vaccinated. ⁵⁸ Percentages are not provided.</p> <p>According to the COVID-19 Vaccination Tracker*⁵⁹:</p> <p>74.6% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose (65.4% total population).</p> <p>65.6% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (57.4% total population).</p>	<p>First dose available to anyone aged 12+; second dose available to anyone aged 12+ for whom 28 days have elapsed since first dose; mass vaccination clinics have now closed in order to focus outreach on under-vaccinated populations; appointments still available at pharmacies ⁶⁰</p> <p>3rd dose: Not required at this time ⁶⁰</p>	<p>No, public health orders have been formally rescinded after reaching Step 3 of the Re-Opening Roadmap on July 11, 2021 ⁶¹</p>	No
YT	<p>86% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose. ⁶²</p> <p>81% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated. ⁶²</p>	<p>Doses available to anyone aged 12+; appointments or walk-ins available ⁶²</p> <p>3rd dose: Not required at this time ⁶³</p>	<p>Yes, reopening plan (A Path Forward) in operation, but it does not have concrete phases or criteria for progression; current stage with some amendments in place since May 25, 2021 ⁶⁴</p>	No
Belgium	<p>72.0% of total population has received at least one dose. ^{65*}</p> <p>66.7% of total population is fully vaccinated. ^{65*}</p> <p>Percentage of vaccination coverage for eligible population not provided.</p>	<p>Doses currently available for anyone aged 12+; appointments required ⁶⁶</p> <p>3rd dose: To be offered to select vulnerable populations ⁶⁷</p>	<p>Yes, step 3 (of 4) currently in effect</p> <p>Criteria for current phase: 70%+ of adults (no age specified) have received first dose, plus low case/hospitalization rates and <500 intensive care beds occupied ⁶⁸</p>	Yes, proof of vaccination or negative PCR test is required to hold massive outdoor events (5000 patrons) ⁶⁸
Germany	<p>63.5% of total population has received at least one dose. ⁶⁹</p>	<p>Doses currently available for anyone aged 12+; appointments required ⁷⁰</p>	<p>No national reopening plan is in effect; restrictions are based on incidence rates over the last</p>	No

	<p>57.8% of total population is fully vaccinated. ⁶⁹</p> <p>Percentage of vaccination coverage for eligible population not provided.</p>	<p>3rd dose: To be offered to select vulnerable populations stating in Sept 2021 ⁷¹</p>	<p>three days, and vary by district and municipality ⁷²</p>	
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Table 2. Changes made to hand washing, masking, and physical distancing guidance as a result of VOC

Jurisdiction	Has hand washing guidance changed due to VOC? If so, how?	Has masking guidance changed due to VOC? If so, how?	Has physical distancing guidance changed due to VOC? If so, how?	Have there been setbacks/reinstatements of public health measures due to VOC?
AB	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC ⁷³	No, masking in public spaces is no longer required except in health facilities and on public transit ¹¹	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC ⁷³ ; physical distancing no longer required in public spaces ¹¹	No
BC	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC ⁷⁴	No, this public health measure has been lifted. Masks are no longer required indoors if fully vaccinated. Proof of vaccination only needs to be requested by service providers when visiting long-term care facilities ¹⁴	No, this public health measure has been relaxed. Social contact may increase in phase 3, and return to normal when proceeding to phase 4 ¹⁴	No
MB	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged ⁷⁵	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ⁷⁵	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ⁷⁶	No
NB	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged ⁷⁷	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ⁷⁷	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ⁷⁷	No
NL	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged ⁷⁸	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged ⁷⁹	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged ⁷⁹	No
NS	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged ⁸⁰	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged ⁸⁰	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ⁸⁰	No, VOC fact sheet was updated June 23, 2021 but no change to guidance related to public health measures ⁸⁰
NT	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC ⁸¹	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC ⁸¹	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC ⁸¹	No
NU	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC ⁸²	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC ⁸²	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC ⁸²	No

ON	No, guidance explicitly stated that changes are required due to VOC ⁸³	No, guidance explicitly stated that changes are required due to VOC ⁸³	No, guidance explicitly stated that changes are required due to VOC ⁸³	No
PE	No, guidance explicitly stated that changes are required due to VOC ⁸⁴	No, guidance explicitly stated that changes are required due to VOC ⁸⁴	No, guidance explicitly stated that changes are required due to VOC ⁸⁴	No
QC	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ⁸⁵	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ⁸⁵	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ⁸⁵	No
SK	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged ⁸⁶	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ⁸⁶ Masks are no longer required indoors as of July 11 2021 ⁸⁶	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged ⁸⁷	No
YT	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ⁸⁸	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ⁸⁸ Masks are no longer required in indoor public areas ⁸⁹	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ⁸⁸	No
Belgium	No guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC (specifically, Delta) ⁹⁰	No guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC (specifically, Delta) ⁹⁰	No guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC (specifically, Delta) ⁹⁰	No
Germany	No, guidance has been updated in response to VOC but has not changed ⁹¹	No, guidance has been updated in response to VOC but has not changed on a national level ⁹¹ ; mask mandates vary by state in response to incidence rates	No, guidance has been updated in response to VOC but has not changed ⁹¹	No

Table 3. Isolation requirements for people in the community suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19

Jurisdiction	Isolation requirements for people suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19	Does guidance differ for VOC cases?
AB	10 days of isolation from the day of a positive test result is required for anyone with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case; beginning September 27, 2021, 10 days of isolation will no longer be required (but recommended) for anyone with a positive test result ⁹²	No
BC	10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms. Continue to isolate until feeling better and fever is gone without using fever reducing medication ⁹³	No
MB	10 days of isolation for individuals who are sick or have tested positive for COVID-19 ⁹⁴	No
NB	Suspected or confirmed cases must isolate for a period determined on a case-by-case basis by Public Health ⁹⁵	No
NL	14 days of isolation or until otherwise advised by Public Health officials for suspected or confirmed cases ⁹⁶	No
NS	14 days of isolation for confirmed cases; people experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must self-isolate until they receive their COVID-19 test result ⁹⁷	No
NT	Suspected or confirmed cases must isolate for a period determined on a case-by-case basis ⁹⁸	No
NU	14 days of isolation for confirmed cases; exit from isolation must be cleared by Regional Communicable Disease Coordinator ⁹⁹	No
ON	Isolation requirements vary by public health unit and the length of time is longer mandated by the provincial government ¹⁰⁰	No
PE	10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms ¹⁰¹	No
QC	10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms for suspected or confirmed cases; it is recommended that people with symptoms get tested. For self-isolation to end, there must be no fever and an improvement of symptoms ¹⁰²	No
SK	Suspected or confirmed cases must isolate for a period determined on a case-by-case basis ¹⁰³	No
YT	Suspected or confirmed cases must isolate for a period determined on a case-by-case basis ¹⁰⁴	No
Belgium	10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms for suspected or confirmed cases; people in isolation may leave their home to go to the pharmacy, doctor, or supermarket, or even work in extreme circumstances ¹⁰⁵	No
Germany	10 days of isolation from the day of a positive test result ¹⁰⁶	No

Table 4. Quarantine requirements for close contacts

Jurisdiction	Quarantine requirements for close contacts of COVID-19 cases	Does guidance differ for close contacts of VOC cases?
AB	Quarantine is no longer required for close contacts ⁹²	No
BC	10 days of quarantine may be required, depending on vaccination status and other factors; Public Health will help determine length of quarantine required. All close contacts must self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days ⁹³	No
MB	14 days of quarantine is advised; a public health official will be in contact ¹⁰⁷	No
NB	Quarantine requirements are determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with public health officials; factors include vaccination status and the nature of close contact ¹⁰⁸	No
NL	14 days of quarantine is required, regardless of presence or absence of symptoms ⁹⁶	No
NS	14 days of quarantine is required from date of exposure, unless close contact received second dose of vaccine at least 14 days before exposure; fully vaccinated close contacts should quarantine until negative test is received [⁹⁷ , ¹⁰⁹]	No
NT	Quarantine requirements are determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with public health officials ⁹⁸	No
NU	14 days of quarantine is required ⁹⁹	No
ON	Quarantine is recommended, but length of time requirements vary by public health unit ¹⁰⁰ ; it is recommended that close contacts get tested on day 10 of quarantine ⁸³	No
PE	14 days of quarantine is required for non-vaccinated or partially vaccinated close contacts; testing required at day 0-1, 4-6, and 9-11. Quarantine is not required for asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts, but self-monitoring is recommended and the same testing requirements apply ¹⁰¹	No
QC	14 days of quarantine is required, regardless of test result. A screening test may be requested 48 hours before exiting quarantine ¹¹⁰	No
SK	14 days of quarantine is required for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated; fully vaccinated close contacts are exempt ¹⁰³	No
YT	14 days of quarantine is required for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated; fully vaccinated close contacts within the same household must also quarantine, but fully vaccinated non-household close contacts are exempt ¹⁰⁴	No
Belgium	Quarantine required until a negative test result is received; testing required on day 1 following the exposure ¹⁰⁵	No
Germany	14 days of quarantine is required for those at high risk of becoming infected ¹⁰⁶	No

Table 5. Quarantine, testing, and follow-up requirements for inter-regional travellers

Jurisdiction	Length of required quarantine period for inter-regional travellers (e.g., entering province from inside Canada)	Testing requirements for inter-regional travellers	Exemptions to quarantine requirements for inter-regional travellers	Exemptions to testing requirements for inter-regional travellers
AB	No quarantine required	No testing required	N/A	N/A
BC	No quarantine required ¹¹¹	No testing required ¹¹¹	N/A	N/A
MB	14 days for unvaccinated travellers aged 12+, regardless of symptoms and test results ¹¹²	Testing on day 1 and day 10 of quarantine is recommended ¹¹² Testing within 3 days of travel is strongly recommended for those who are not fully vaccinated before visiting or re-entering First Nations or Indigenous and Northern Relations communities after an absence of more than 48 hours ¹¹²	Fully vaccinated individuals, transport and trade workers, military and defence team personnel, border security workers, RCMP, and many other specific groups are exempt from quarantine ¹¹²	Quarantine-exempt travellers are not required to get tested unless symptoms develop ¹¹²
NB	No quarantine required ⁷⁷	No testing required ⁷⁷	N/A	N/A
NL	14 days for travellers aged 12+ who are not fully vaccinated, people travelling with people aged 12+ who are not fully vaccinated, or people who do not disclose vaccination status at time of entry ¹¹³	Testing on day 7 is recommended; quarantine requirement ends when negative test result is received, so full 14 days may not be necessary with testing ¹¹³	Individuals who are fully vaccinated, attending medical appointments, visiting a critically ill or palliative loved one, or travelling for bereavement are exempt from quarantine ¹¹³	None; testing is recommended but not required ¹¹³
NS	14 days for unvaccinated travellers; 7 days for travellers with one dose of vaccine at least 14 days before entry (i.e., partially vaccinated); none required for travellers fully vaccinated at least 14 days before entry ¹¹⁴	Testing is recommended but not required for fully vaccinated travellers who do not need to self-isolate and for travellers who are required to self-isolate for 14 days ¹¹⁴ Travellers required to self-isolate for 7 days must get a negative	Fully vaccinated individuals, people providing essential health services, attending legal proceedings, working in transport/trade, military/defence, border security, RCMP, first responders, healthcare workers ¹¹⁴	None; exempt travellers are strongly recommended to get tested, especially upon entry to NS ¹¹⁴

		test before leaving quarantine, on day 1 or 2 and day 5 or 6 ¹¹⁴		
NT	10 days for unvaccinated travellers including those under age 12; 8 days for partially vaccinated travellers; none required for fully vaccinated travellers (but testing required) ¹¹⁵	Fully vaccinated travellers need day 1 and day 14 negative tests to return directly to small communities ¹¹⁵	Non-residents can apply for exemptions for compassionate reasons, family reasons and other exceptional reasons ¹¹⁶	None; testing required when travelling to small communities ¹¹⁵
NU	14 days for unvaccinated travellers, which must be completed at a recognized site in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, or Yellowknife before entry to NU; none required for fully vaccinated travellers ⁸²	No testing required	Fully vaccinated individuals, critical workers, construction workers, or on compassionate or extraordinary grounds ⁸²	N/A
ON	No quarantine required, unless symptomatic ¹¹⁷	Travellers experiencing COVID-19 symptoms may get tested upon entry to ON ¹¹⁷	N/A	N/A
PE	8 days for unvaccinated travellers; none for partially or fully vaccinated travellers showing proof of vaccination or PEI Pass ¹⁰¹	A negative test on day 8 is required to exit quarantine; students entering PE from domestic travel are required to be tested on days 4 and 8 ¹⁰¹	Partially or fully vaccinated individuals (i.e., at least one dose + 21 days) aged 12+ years and older; children younger than 12 travelling with at minimum one vaccinated adult who is exempt from quarantine with a PEI Pass ¹⁰¹	None
QC	No quarantine required ¹¹⁸	No testing required ¹¹⁸	N/A	N/A
SK	14 days of quarantine required for those not fully vaccinated who have travelled on an airplane in the same row as a confirmed case, 3 rows in front or 3 rows behind; no quarantine required otherwise ¹⁰³	No testing required ¹⁰³	N/A	N/A
YT	No quarantine required ¹¹⁹	No testing required unless symptomatic ¹¹⁹	N/A	N/A

Belgium	<p>No quarantine required for travellers from green or orange zones within the EU, or fully vaccinated travellers from red zones within the EU. Individuals without a vaccine certificate or recent negative test result must isolate until a negative test is received ¹²⁰</p> <p>10 days of quarantine required for unvaccinated travellers arriving from a red zone outside the EU ¹²⁰</p>	<p>No testing required for travellers coming from a green or orange zone within the EU, or fully vaccinated travellers from a red zone within the EU ¹²⁰</p> <p>Testing on day 1 or 2 required for travellers from a red zone who do not have a vaccine certificate or recent negative test result ¹²⁰</p> <p>Testing required on day 1 and 7 for unvaccinated travellers arriving from a red zone outside the EU ¹²⁰</p>	<p>Exemptions to quarantine are permitted for urgent medical care, purchase of essential items, urgent legal or financial needs, urgent care for farm animals, or travel for ¹²¹</p>	<p>People unable to provide a test sample for medical reasons are exempt from testing requirements ¹²¹</p>
Germany	<p>10 days required for travellers entering Germany from any “high-risk areas” or areas with high VOC risk unless proof of vaccination or previous infection is provided ⁷²</p>	<p>Travellers entering Germany from high-risk areas must provide proof of a negative test performed a maximum of 48 hours (antigen) or 72 hours (PCR) prior to entry ¹²²</p>	<p>Travellers with proof of vaccination or prior infection may enter Germany without quarantining ⁷²; the CovPass is an app used by travellers within the EU ¹²³</p>	<p>None; all travellers entering Germany must provide a negative test result regardless of vaccination status ¹²²</p>

Table 6. Gathering limits in place

Jurisdiction	Private gathering limits	Public gathering limits
AB	No restrictions ⁹²	No restrictions ⁹²
BC	No restrictions ¹⁴	Religious gatherings or worship services have no limits. Indoor organized gatherings must be 50% capacity or 50 people, outdoor organized gatherings can have 50%, or 5,000 people. Fairs, festivals and trade shows can have no limit, with communicable disease plan in place ¹⁴
MB	No restrictions ⁷⁵	Indoor gatherings at an indoor public place are limited to 50 people or 50 per cent of capacity, whichever is greater. Outdoor gatherings in public setting limited to 1,500 people or if the outdoor venue has a capacity limit, the allowed capacity is 50 per cent or 150 people, whichever is greater. ⁷⁵
NB	No restrictions ⁷⁷	No restrictions ⁷⁷
NL	Limited to the number of people that can fit in the space with physical distancing ²⁸	Outdoor gatherings up to 500 people. Indoor gatherings up to 350 people with physical distancing ²⁸
NS	Informal social gatherings can have 25 people indoors or 50 people outdoors [³⁴ , ¹⁰⁹]	Public gatherings such as funerals, weddings or faith gatherings can have 50% of venue capacity up to 150 people indoors or 250 people outdoors [³⁴ , ¹⁰⁹]
NT	Indoor gatherings of up to 200 people allowed; approval from Public Health is required for events with live singing, playing of wind instruments, indoor dancing, funerals, handgames, and indoor winter sports ¹²⁴	Outdoor gatherings up to 200 people allowed; approval from Public Health is required for high-risk events such as funerals ¹²⁴
NU	Private gatherings may have 15 guests plus household residents in homes, or 15 people total in non-dwellings ⁸²	Indoor public gatherings such as theatres or faith services can have 75% of venue capacity up to 100 people. Sports arenas, libraries and museums can have 50% of venue capacity up to 50 people. No restrictions on outdoor public gatherings ⁸²
ON	Indoor social gatherings can have up to 25 people ⁴⁶	Outdoor public gatherings can have up to 100 people. Indoor public gatherings can have up to 25 people ⁴⁶
PE	50 inside and outside ¹²⁵	Organized gatherings of 200 outside and 100 inside ¹²⁵
QC	Indoor private gatherings allow a maximum of 10 people from different addresses, with continued public health measures recommended. Outdoor private gatherings may have up to 20 people from different addresses, with continued public health measures implemented ¹²⁶	Public gatherings may have up to 250 people indoors or 500 outdoors, except for wedding receptions which may have 25 people indoors or 50 outdoors ¹²⁶
SK	No restrictions ⁶¹	No restrictions ⁶¹

YT	Fully vaccinated: 20 people indoors and 100 people outdoors. Not fully vaccinated: 6 people for any indoor or outdoor gatherings ⁸⁹	200 indoors and outdoors, masks and social distancing recommended ⁸⁹
Belgium	Not reported	Events may take place indoors with up to 3000 people up to 100% room capacity, with masking and distancing, or outdoors with up to 5000 people upon proof of vaccine or negative PCR test. Indoor parties may have up to 250 people, while summer camps can have up to 200 people with an overnight stay allowed ⁶⁸
Germany	Varies by state, district, and municipality; restrictions come into effect when incidence rate surpasses 100 ⁷²	Varies by state, district, and municipality; restrictions come into effect when incidence rate surpasses 100 ⁷²

Methods

Guidance documents were retrieved between August 8 and August 18, 2021, using a combination of targeted Google searches and follow-up browsing of government websites. Searches were designed and overseen by an experienced information specialist (LB). Potentially relevant resources were tracked using Microsoft Excel and later verified by a second reviewer. Included resources were limited to documents or webpages produced by governments or provincial/territorial health organizations. Only the most recent guidance documents at the time of the search were included. Data were extracted by one reviewer directly into the tables included in this report and were verified by a second reviewer. Vaccination data were extracted from government websites and the COVID-19 Vaccination Tracker¹²⁷ on August 18, 2021. Case rate data visualizations were taken from PHAC's Public Health Infobase³ on August 19, 2021.

Definitions

In this report, PHAC's definitions of isolation and quarantine are used. *Isolation* is used for people suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19. *Quarantine* is used for close contacts of people suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, and for travellers at risk of bringing COVID-19 into a region.

List of Abbreviations

AB: Alberta
BC: British Columbia
MB: Manitoba
NB: New Brunswick
NL: Newfoundland and Labrador
NS: Nova Scotia
NT: Northwest Territories
NU: Nunavut
ON: Ontario
PE: Prince Edward Island
PHAC: Public Health Agency of Canada
QC: Quebec
SK: Saskatchewan
YT: Yukon
VOC: variant(s) of concern

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