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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: October 1, 2021

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FUNDED BY **COVARR-NET**

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Evidence up to September 30, 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 September 28, 2021, over 232 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported worldwide and more than 4.7 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.

As of September 30, 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.³ 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.⁴ The increased transmissibility of VOC has led to surges in COVID-19 incidence and consequently, hospitalizations and mortality.⁵

The purpose of this jurisdictional scan was to compile Canadian provincial and territorial public health guidance relating to COVID-19 and the VOC up to September 30, 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.

New Key Findings in This Update

- **Public health measures have been reinstated or re-strengthened in AB, BC, NB, NL, PE, and QC due to recent rises in cases, and NS has modified the next phase of its reopening plan; although not explicitly stated in any guidance, prevalence of VOC is the most likely reason for case increases and reinstatement of measures**
- **Third doses are now available to immunocompromised populations in AB, BC, MB, NB, NL, NS, ON, QC, SK, Belgium, and Germany**
- **Proof of vaccination programs are in effect in AB, BC, NB, NS (as of October 4), ON, QC, and Belgium (for mass gatherings); they are being considered in NL and PE, and are optionally required by businesses in MB**
- **Mask mandates in indoor public spaces are in effect in AB, BC, MB, NB, NL, NS, ON, PE, QC, and SK**
- **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. AB had planned to lift this requirement in September but did not do so. 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. AB no longer requires quarantine of close contacts.**
- **Quarantine for interprovincial travellers has been reinstated in NB and strengthened for partially vaccinated travellers to NL; testing requirements have been reinstated for people entering PE; AB, BC, ON, QC, and YT have no quarantine requirements for interprovincial travellers**

Patient-Identified Key Messages

- It is confusing that each province/territory varies so widely in its public health guidance, and that some measures (e.g., mask mandates) have been lifted and then reinstated in some places. This lack of consistency could undermine the public's confidence in government, lead to resentment, and result in lower compliance with the rules.
- As the public is likely growing tired of masking, governments could increase messaging about benefits (e.g., masks can prevent more than just COVID-19) and also explore options for eventually removing mask mandates safely, such as rapid testing and/or consistent cohorting in schools.
- It would have been better to develop a national plan for administering third vaccine doses instead of leaving it to each province/territory to decide. As a result, immunocompromised people in some provinces have been left more vulnerable to catching COVID-19.
- A national approach to proof of vaccination requirements, such as a national vaccine status card and/or mobile app, would have prevented confusion and helped with interprovincial travel.
- Masking, handwashing, social distancing, and other NPIs remain a critical part of preventing the spread of the virus, even with full vaccination. If guidance on these measures was updated to communicate their ongoing effectiveness against VOC, people may be more likely to take them seriously.
- While fully vaccinated people are increasingly exempt from quarantine and other measures, it is important to continue messaging that it is still possible to catch and spread the virus even when fully vaccinated.

Prevalence of VOC in Canada

As of September 30, 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.

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

Updated: October 1, 2021

The most recent additions to this jurisdictional scan are in bold, red font.

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

Jurisdiction	What percentage of the population is vaccinated with one dose? Two doses? Updated September 29, 2021	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>83% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose (70.8% total population)</p> <p>74% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (62.9% 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</p> <p>Temporary walk-in clinics available for first doses and second doses</p> <p>Lottery entry for \$1 million and other prizes offered as an incentive to get 2 doses</p> <p>3rd dose: Offered to select populations including immunocompromised individuals and people living in long-term care</p>	<p>Stage 3 (of 3) was previously in effect, but some measures have been reinstated and a state of public health emergency has been declared</p> <p>Criteria for previous phase: 70%+ of people aged 12+ have received at least first dose</p>	<p>Yes, the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) allows recreational businesses to operate with reduced public health restrictions based on proof of vaccination or negative test result, in addition to mandatory masking indoors</p>

<p>BC</p>	<p>89% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose (78.8% total population) *¹</p> <p>81.6% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (72.2% 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; appointments or drop-in clinics available, including some dedicated Indigenous drop-in clinics with cultural supports</p> <p>3rd dose: Offered to some people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised</p>	<p>Yes, Step 3 (of 4) is currently in effect</p> <p>Criteria for current phase: 70%+ of people aged 18+ have received at least first dose, plus low case/hospitalization rates</p>	<p>Yes, proof of vaccine (BC Vaccine Card) is required to participate in non-essential activities (e.g., sports and entertainment venues, restaurants, bars, fitness centers, post-secondary student housing and organized events with >50 people). Partial vaccination required as of September 13, 2021, and full vaccination is required as of October 24, 2021</p>
<p>MB</p>	<p>84.8% of eligible population (those born before December 31, 2009) has received at least one dose (73.4% total population) *</p> <p>80.3% of eligible population (those born before December 31, 2009) fully vaccinated (69.5% total population) *</p> <p>Notably, Manitoba reports number of doses administered in First Nations communities on its Manitoba COVID-19 Vaccinations dashboard</p>	<p>Doses available to anyone aged 12+ or those born in 2009 who are not yet 12; appointments required, but pop-up clinics are being launched in rural and northern communities and urban Indigenous communities</p> <p>3rd dose: Offered to select populations including severely immunocompromised individuals and residents and staff of First Nations care homes; will be made available to all personal care home residents in October</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</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</p>
<p>NB</p>	<p>88.4% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose (78.6% total population) *</p>	<p>Doses available to anyone aged 12+; appointments or drop-in clinics available, including some mobile vaccination clinics</p>	<p>Green Level (final level) was previously in effect, but some measures have been reinstated and a state of emergency has been declared</p>	<p>Yes, proof of vaccination allows fully vaccinated (or medically exempt) people aged 12+ to be admitted to certain locations and certain non-essential</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.

	79.5% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (70.7% total population) *	3rd dose: Offered to immunocompromised people	Criteria for current phase: 75%+ of people aged 12+ have received at least first dose	activities where the risk of transmission is high
NL	88.3% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose (81.6% total population) * 80.2% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (74.5% total population) *	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 3rd dose: Offered to immunocompromised people	Yes, Step 2 (of 3) is currently in effect Criteria for current phase: 80%+ of people aged 12+ have received first dose and 50%+ have received second dose , plus low case/hospitalization rates	Under consideration as of September 29, 2021, but no formal program yet announced
NS	89.5% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose * (80.4% total population) 83% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated * (74.6% total population)	First dose available to anyone aged 12+ ; second dose available to anyone aged 12+ for whom 28 days (Moderna vaccine) or 21 days (Pfizer vaccine) have elapsed since first dose; appointments required in most cases as the majority of walk-in clinics have closed, but a few locations remain and are offering drop-in appointments; walk-in clinics also being held at pharmacies 3rd dose: To be offered to immunocompromised people (This has been announced in the media but is not yet reflected in official public health guidance)	Yes, Phase 4 (of 5) is currently in effect; plans to move ahead with Phase 5 in September have been delayed Criteria for current phase: 75%+ of total population (not just eligible population) has received first dose , plus low case/hospitalization rates	Yes, starting October 4, proof of full vaccination is needed to participate in most non-essential events and activities that bring groups of people together, including restaurants, gyms, movies, conferences and performances
NT	82% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose (69% total population) 77% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (65% total population)	Doses available to anyone aged 12+ and those who are turning 12 the year of vaccination , regardless of birth month Appointments required ; communities lacking access to	Yes, the Emerging Wisely 2021 plan is currently in effect, but plan does not have concrete phases or criteria for progression	No, will follow federal recommendations

		vaccines are able to request clinics 3rd dose: Not required at this time		
NU	85% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose (62.6% total population) * 74% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (54.8% total population) *	Pfizer doses available to anyone aged 12+ ; appointments required; remote community clinics open for limited periods of time for first and second doses; school-based (age 12-17) vaccination clinics have been operating in some communities since September 1 3rd dose: Not required at this time	Yes, a plan is currently in effect (Nunavut's Path: Living with COVID-19) , but it does not have concrete phases or criteria for progression. Regions within NU will reopen based on vaccination status, COVID-19 case numbers, testing & response capacity, and the emergence of VOC	No
ON	86.8% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose (75.9% total population) * 81.3% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (71.1% total population) *	Doses available to anyone aged 12+ ; appointments required; some walk-in available in pharmacy; more vaccines are being sent to " hot spot " communities 3rd dose: Now being offered to select vulnerable populations (e.g., transplant recipients)	Yes, Step 3 (final step before "exiting" the plan) ; currently pausing the exit from the "Roadmap to Reopen" due to high Delta cases Criteria for current phase: 70-80%+ of adults (no age specified) have received first dose and 25% have received second dose	Yes, on Aug 17, 2021 vaccinations were mandatory in high-risk settings (e.g., hospitals, post-secondary institutions, retirement homes); as of September 22, 2021, proof of vaccination required to enter certain businesses and settings
PE	93.6% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose (82.1% total population) * 86.2% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (75.5% total population) *	Doses available to anyone aged 12+ ; appointments required; drop-in clinics available; appointments can be booked with a partner pharmacy Some doses were administered through schools for children aged 12-15	Yes, Step 3 and 4 (of 5) of the Moving Forward Plan 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	No, but preliminary discussions are underway regarding the implementation of a proof of vaccine credential or a vaccine passport as part of Phase 5 of the Moving Forward plan

		3rd dose: Not required at this time		
QC	<p>90.2% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose * (78.2% total population)</p> <p>84.3% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (73.5% total population) *</p>	<p>Doses available to anyone aged 12+; appointments or walk-in clinics available. Second dose available 4 weeks after first dose.</p> <p>3rd dose: An additional dose of the vaccine is recommended for immunocompromised persons, at least 4 weeks after second dose. 3rd doses available at walk-in clinics or by appointment</p>	Yes, Green Level is currently in effect	Yes, vaccine passports were introduced September 1st. Vaccine passports are required for everyone aged 13+, and are required for sports, outdoor events, performance venues, bars, and restaurants, amusement parks among other locations.
SK	<p>820,875 people (81%) have received one dose. 730,460 people (72%) are fully vaccinated.</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; appointments are available at pharmacies</p> <p>3rd dose: As of September 7, 2021 booster doses will be provided in a phased approach starting with the most clinically vulnerable</p> <p>Additional (3rd and 4th) doses are available for those who require it for international travel</p>	<p>No, public health orders were formally rescinded after reaching Step 3 of the Re-Opening Roadmap on July 11, 2021.</p> <p>However, as of September 17, 2021 an interim public health order took effect mandating the use of non-medical masks in all public indoor spaces and a mandatory 10 day self-isolation requirement for individuals who test positive for COVID-19.</p>	Effective October 1, 2021, a proof of vaccination or negative test policy will be implemented for all government ministry crown and agency employees, as well as for public access to a list of establishments, businesses and event venues (children under 12 are exempt)
YT	<p>88% of eligible (12+) population has received at least one dose (79.2% total population) *</p> <p>83% of eligible (12+) population fully vaccinated (76.3% total population) *</p>	<p>Doses available to anyone aged 12+, or those turning 12 this calendar year; appointments or walk-ins available</p> <p>3rd dose: Not required at this time</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	No

<p>Belgium</p>	<p>74% of total population has received at least one dose.</p> <p>73% of total population is fully vaccinated.</p> <p>Percentage of vaccination coverage for eligible population not provided.</p>	<p>Doses currently available for anyone aged 12+; appointments required</p> <p>3rd dose: To be offered to select vulnerable populations</p>	<p>Due to varying rates of vaccination and infection, Belgium is taking a differentiated approach to restrictions. It is moving from a federal approach to an approach led by local authorities.</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</p>	<p>Yes, proof of vaccination or negative PCR test is required to hold massive outdoor events (5000 patrons)</p>
<p>Germany</p>	<p>68.1 % of total population has received at least one dose.</p> <p>64.6 % of total population is fully vaccinated.</p> <p>Percentage of vaccination coverage for eligible population not provided.</p>	<p>Doses currently available for anyone aged 12+; appointments required</p> <p>3rd dose: To be offered to select vulnerable populations who may not have adequate or waning immunity starting in September 2021</p>	<p>No national reopening plan is in effect; restrictions are based on incidence rates over the last three days, and vary by district and municipality</p>	<p>No</p>

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	<u>Guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned.</u> Masking is now required in all indoor public spaces, including workplaces; the REP does not include masking (e.g., there are no exemptions for vaccinated people)	<u>Guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned.</u> Physical distancing is now required in all indoor public spaces, including workplaces	<u>Guidance has been updated to reinstate public health measures due to a rise in cases, mainly consisting of VOC.</u> However, reinstatements do not explicitly mention VOC
BC	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC	<u>Guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned.</u> Masking is now required in all indoor public spaces for people aged 12+	No, this public health measure has been relaxed . Social contact may increase in phase 3, and return to normal when proceeding to phase 4	No, not due to VOC. However, <u>some guidance has changed based on higher case counts and an anticipated surge in cases during the fall and winter months, which are/will likely be connected to VOC</u>
MB	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned; mask requirements remain in place	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned	No; Manitoba continues to address VOC through <u>“ongoing reviews of public health measures, to align with changing national guidance and incorporate emerging evidence,”</u> as well as vaccination rollout, laboratory screening for VOC to allow early detection, case and contact management, and ongoing monitoring of variants
NB	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged	<u>Guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned.</u> Masking is now required in all indoor public spaces	<u>Guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned.</u> Physical distancing is required in all places where	<u>Guidance has been updated to reinstate public health measures due to a rise in cases, mainly consisting of VOC.</u>

			proof of vaccination is not required	However, reinstatements do not explicitly mention VOC
NL	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged	Guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned. Masking is now required in most indoor public spaces	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged	Guidance has been updated to reinstate public health measures due to a rise in cases, mainly consisting of VOC. However, reinstatements do not explicitly mention VOC
NS	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged ; masking is still required in all indoor public spaces	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged	No, VOC fact sheet was updated June 23, 2021, but no change to guidance related to public health measures
NT	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC	No
NU	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned	No
ON	No, guidance explicitly stated that no changes are required due to VOC	No, guidance explicitly stated that no changes are required due to VOC ; masking is still required in all indoor public spaces	No, guidance explicitly stated that no changes are required due to VOC	No
PE	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned ; As of September 17, non-medical masks are mandatory in indoor public places	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned	A September 7 provincial news release suggests that recent adjustments to the Moving Forward Plan (e.g., delaying Step 5, changes to masking guidance and gathering limits, etc.) have been implemented in response to the dominance of the Delta variant
QC	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned	Previous statements indicated the termination of Green Level vigilance by end of August. This has since been retracted and colour levels continue to be implemented. However,

				reinstatements do not explicitly mention VOC
SK	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged	No, guidance has been updated recently: As of September 17, 2021, masks are required for all indoor public areas	No, guidance has not been updated since VOC emerged	No, but public health order issued September 22 regarding mandatory isolation and masking refers to presence of VOC
YT	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned Masks are no longer required but recommended in indoor public areas	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned	No
Belgium	No, guidance has been updated recently but VOC are not mentioned	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC Masks are required in shops, shopping centres, public transportation and areas of high traffic	No, guidance explicitly states that no changes are required due to VOC	No
Germany	No, guidance has been updated in response to VOC but has not changed	No, guidance has been updated in response to VOC but has not changed on a national level; mask mandates vary by state in response to incidence rates	No, guidance has been updated in response to VOC but has not changed	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 ; although the province had planned to eliminate this requirement on September 27, 2021, this plan has been abandoned	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	No
MB	10 days of isolation for individuals who are sick or have tested positive for COVID-19	No
NB	Suspected or confirmed cases must isolate for a period determined on a case-by-case basis by Public Health	No
NL	14 days of isolation or until otherwise advised by Public Health officials for suspected or confirmed cases	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	No
NT	Suspected or confirmed cases must isolate for a period determined on a case-by-case basis	No
NU	10 days of isolation for confirmed cases ; exit from isolation must be cleared by Regional Communicable Disease Coordinator	No
ON	Isolation requirements vary by public health unit and the length of time is no longer mandated by the provincial government	No
PE	10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms , or until cleared by a public health official, for confirmed cases; self-isolation until receipt of a negative test result for suspected cases	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	No
SK	Confirmed cases must isolate for a period of 10 days	No
YT	Suspected or confirmed cases must isolate for a period determined by Yukon Communicable Disease Control	No
Belgium	As from 29 January 2021, self-isolation shall be lifted for patients with a positive PCR test with symptoms no earlier than 10 days after onset of symptoms AND up to at least 3 days without fever AND with improvement of respiratory symptoms.	No
Germany	10 days of isolation from the day of a positive test result	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	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	No
MB	10 days of quarantine is advised, followed by 4 days of self-monitoring for symptoms; asymptomatic, fully vaccinated individuals may be exempt	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	No
NL	14 days of quarantine is required , regardless of presence or absence of symptoms, for anyone who is not fully vaccinated	No
NS	At least 7 days of quarantine is required from date of exposure, until a negative test result is received and there are no symptoms; fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine or get tested as long as they are not experiencing symptoms	No
NT	Quarantine requirements are determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with public health officials	No
NU	14 days of quarantine from last date of high-risk contact	No
ON	Length of quarantine depends on vaccination status and exposure risk; it is recommended that close contacts get tested on day 10 of quarantine	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	No
QC	10 days of quarantine is required for people who are not adequately protected. For close contacts who are adequately protected, no quarantine is required but symptoms should be monitored for 14 days	No
SK	14 days of quarantine is required for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated; fully vaccinated individuals at time of close contacts are exempt	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	No
Belgium	A minimum of 10 days for high-risk contacts, beginning from the moment the high-risk contact took place. May be reduced to a minimum of 7 days on condition of a negative PCR test result, if taken 7 days or more after the last exposure. Exceptions for those fully vaccinated/immune.	No
Germany	14 days of quarantine is required for those at high risk of becoming infected	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	No testing required	N/A	N/A
MB	14 days for unvaccinated travellers aged 12+ , regardless of symptoms and test results	Testing on day 1 and day 10 of quarantine is recommended 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	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	Quarantine-exempt travellers are not required to get tested unless symptoms develop
NB	14 days for unvaccinated travellers aged 12+ unless a negative test result is received on day 10 or later; registration is required for all travellers entering the province including residents	No testing required, but travellers may leave quarantine on day 10 with a negative test result	Fully vaccinated individuals and children under age 12 travelling with them, commercial truck drivers, people accessing medical care, workers whose employers require proof of vaccination or regular testing, and children travelling to school or daycare are exempt from quarantine	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; registration is required within 30 days of travel for all travellers; people who are partially vaccinated are now subject to same quarantine requirements as unvaccinated people, and the Atlantic Bubble exemption no longer applies (<i>This has been announced in the media but is not yet reflected in official public health guidance</i>)	Testing on day 7 or later is required for anyone requiring quarantine; quarantine requirement ends when negative test result is received, so full 14 days may not be necessary with testing	Individuals who are fully vaccinated, attending medical appointments, visiting a critically ill or palliative loved one, or travelling for bereavement are exempt from quarantine	None
NS	7 days for travellers with one dose of vaccine at least 14 days before entry (i.e., partially vaccinated) or unvaccinated travellers; none required for travellers fully vaccinated at least 14 days before entry	Testing is recommended but not required for fully vaccinated travellers who do not need to self-isolate Travellers required to self-isolate for 7 or 14 days must receive 2 negative test results before leaving quarantine	Fully vaccinated individuals, people providing essential health services, attending legal proceedings, working in transport/trade, military/defence, border security, RCMP, first responders, healthcare workers are exempt from quarantine	None; exempt travellers are strongly recommended to get tested , especially upon entry to NS
NT	10 days for unvaccinated travellers including those under 12 ; 8 days for partially vaccinated travellers; none required for fully vaccinated travellers	Fully vaccinated travellers need day 1 and day 8 negative tests to return directly to small communities Unvaccinated travellers require a negative test at day 10 and partially vaccinated travellers require a negative test at day 8	Non-residents can apply for exemptions for compassionate reasons , family reasons and other exceptional reasons	None; testing required when travelling to small communities
NU	14 days for unvaccinated travellers , which must be	No testing required	Fully vaccinated individuals, critical workers, and	N/A

	completed at a recognized site in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, or Yellowknife before entry to NU; none required for fully vaccinated travellers		construction workers are exempt from quarantine , or for compassionate or extraordinary grounds	
ON	No quarantine required , unless symptomatic	Travellers experiencing COVID-19 symptoms may get tested upon entry to ON	N/A	N/A
PE	8 days for unvaccinated travellers ; none for partially or fully vaccinated travellers showing proof of vaccination or PEI Pass	Beginning September 28, individuals over the age of 12 who travel to PEI from any destination, regardless of vaccine status, are asked to test at least once after their arrival between days 4 and 8 (this will be required as of September 30), and to isolate and test if symptoms develop at any time. A negative test on day 8 is required to exit quarantine ; students entering PE from domestic travel are required to be tested at the point of entry and on days 4 and 8	Partially or fully vaccinated individuals (i.e., at least one dose + 21 days) aged 12+ years ; children younger than 12 travelling with at minimum one vaccinated adult who is exempt from quarantine with a PEI Pass	None
QC	No quarantine required , non-essential travel should be avoided	No testing required	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; otherwise no quarantine required	No testing required, but reference has been made to increased transmissibility of VOC and statement that testing is the best tool to protect against COVID-19 if you travel	N/A	N/A
YT	No quarantine required	No testing required unless symptomatic	N/A	N/A

<p>Belgium</p>	<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</p> <p>10 days of quarantine required for unvaccinated travellers arriving from a red zone outside the EU</p> <p>Non-essential travel from non-EU countries strongly discouraged.</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</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</p> <p>Testing required on day 1 and 7 for unvaccinated travellers arriving from a red zone outside the EU</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 above</p>	<p>People unable to provide a test sample for medical reasons are exempt from testing requirements</p>
<p>Germany</p>	<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</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</p>	<p>Travellers with proof of vaccination or prior infection may enter Germany without quarantining; the CovPass is an app used by travellers within the EU</p>	<p>None; all travellers entering Germany must provide a negative test result, proof of vaccination or proof of recovery</p>

Table 6. Gathering limits in place

Jurisdiction	Private gathering limits	Public gathering limits
AB	<u>No indoor gatherings for vaccine-eligible unvaccinated individuals. Vaccinated individuals limited to one household plus another vaccinated household with a limit of 10 people. No limit on children under 12. Outdoor gatherings limited to 200 individuals maximum with social distancing.</u>	<u>Businesses implementing Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) have no limits. Businesses not implementing REP must function at 1/3 capacity. Individuals must be with household only, or 2 close contacts if they live alone. Outdoor activities have no limits but social distancing must be occurring between households.</u>
BC	No restrictions	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
MB	No restrictions	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.
NB	<u>Indoor gatherings restricted to household plus 20 steady contacts; no restrictions for outdoor gatherings</u>	<u>No restrictions in place for gatherings where proof of vaccination is required; physical distancing required where proof of vaccination is not</u>
NL	Limited to the number of people that can fit in the space with physical distancing	Outdoor gatherings up to 500 people. Indoor gatherings up to 350 people with physical distancing
NS	Informal social gatherings can have 25 people indoors or 50 people outdoors	Public gatherings such as funerals, weddings or faith gatherings can have 50% of venue capacity up to 150 people indoors or 250 people outdoors
NT	Household gatherings of 5 additional people, up to 10 people indoors or 25 people outdoors are allowed, with public health measures in place. Larger 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, hand games, and indoor winter sports	Outdoor gatherings up to 200 people allowed ; approval from Public Health is required for high-risk events such as funerals
NU	Private indoor gatherings may have 15 guests plus household residents in homes, or 15 people total in non-dwellings	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 25 people. No restrictions on outdoor public gatherings

ON	Private indoor gatherings up to 25 people or 100 outdoors	Outdoor public gatherings can have up to 100 people, with exceptions for certain establishments (open outdoor venues may have 75% capacity up to 5000 people). Indoor public gatherings can have up to 25 people, with exceptions for certain establishments (open indoor venues may have up to 250 people)
PE	Personal gatherings (inside and outside) may have a maximum of 20 people; recently lowered from the 50-person maximum outlined in Steps 3 and 4 of the Moving Forward Plan	Organized gatherings of 200 people outdoors and 100 people indoors
QC	Indoor private gatherings allow a maximum of 10 people from different addresses , or occupants of 3 households with continued public health measures recommended. Outdoor private gatherings may have up to 20 people from different addresses, or occupants from 3 households with continued public health measures implemented	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
SK	No restrictions	No restrictions
YT	As of August 25, fully vaccinated can safely gather with any size; not fully vaccinated can gather up to 6 people indoors or outdoors	As of August 25, gathering sizes are no longer enforced; however, encouraged to wear mask indoors and maintain physical distancing
Belgium	Private gatherings are allowed where access is restricted to a specific audience by means of individual invitations. Private gatherings may be held indoors for a maximum of 200 people until September 30, 2021; this is raised to 500 people after October 1, 2021. Private gatherings may be held outdoors for a maximum of 400 people until September 30, 2021; this is raised to 750 people after October 1, 2021.	After October 1, 2021, events, cultural and other performances, sports competitions and training sessions, and conferences may be held without specific measures if the number of people present is less than 500 indoors or 750 outdoors. It is no longer mandatory to follow the social distancing rules and to wear a face mask. The minimum hospitality rules must be respected at these events. If no CST (COVID-19 passport) is used, the following rules apply to larger events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organised indoors for an audience of 200 people (500 from 1 October onwards) to 3000 people • organised outdoors for an audience of 400 people (750 from 1 October onwards) to 5000 people These events must respect the following rules. People will be subject to mandatory mask wearing, and some social distancing measures are required.
Germany	Varies by state, district, and municipality; restrictions come into effect when incidence rate surpasses 100	Varies by state, district, and municipality; restrictions come into effect when incidence rate surpasses 100

Methods

Guidance documents were retrieved between September 22 and September 30, 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, unless changes announced in the media had not yet been updated on those websites. 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 Tracker⁶ on September 29, 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
NPIs: nonpharmaceutical interventions
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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