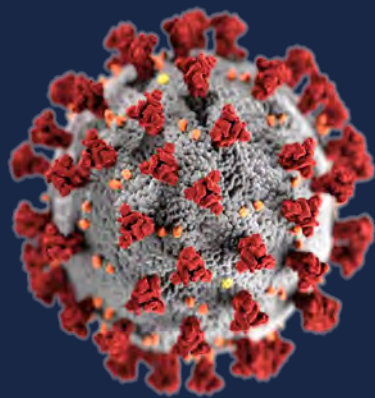




**Paladin  
Risk Solutions**



# **COVID-19**

## **INTELLIGENCE REPORT**

**Situational Awareness for:**

Stakeholders and Decision Makers

**30 October 2020**

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	Confirmed	Deaths	Recovered	Active
Canada	229,438 (↑896)	10,083 (↑9)	192,005 (↑796)	27,350 (↑91)
USA	9,219,150	234,236	5,984,941	2,999,973
Global	45,504,076	1,188,523	33,069,538	11,246,015

**NOTE: Paladin Risk Solutions is now utilizing a secure cloud application to provide multiple layers of protection on the web and prevent exposure of open source intelligence gathering and dark web investigations. This software enables research teams to maximize security, accelerate intelligence gathering and analysis, streamline network operations, and ensure full control and auditability of all research activity.**

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## 2. INSIGHT and SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

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**Vaccine.** Although experts have promised a vaccine as soon as November, expectations may not reflect reality. Clinical trials of vaccines are seeing difficulties, including pauses due to safety concerns which investigation, and a slow rate of infection amongst participants in some trials. This suggests that the FDA may be slow in approving vaccines due to the limited safety and efficacy data for them. Pfizer, whose vaccine is currently in the most advanced clinical trials, advised this week that the Phase 3 clinical trial analysis has not occurred due to not having enough infections for trial participants, enough data to analyze whether those who received the vaccine have a lower infection rate than those who received the placebo. There are currently five Phase 3 trials occurring in the USA that require data from more than just a few hundred people. Early indications suggest the vaccine does activate production of antibodies against COVID-19; therefore, further data from more individuals is required to ensure its efficacy. Pfizer originally suggested September as the month when efficacy analysis would be released, which was subsequently pushed to the end of October. Currently, it is advising that FDA emergency approval may occur in mid November. Experts have suggested the vaccine would be available by the USA election, but it is now believed that spring may be a more realistic date to vaccinate, at least those who are most vulnerable.

**Cyber Crime.** According to the RCMP, Canadians have lost over \$37 million from online crime this year, with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre receiving 150,000 complaints, and identifying about 8,000 victims. Cyber experts are reporting that cybercrime is more successful than it has even been. Most scams are email, internet or social media fraud related, and encompass various sectors; ransomware, loan approval, pet adoption scams, cat phishing, extortion, vacation rental scams, and more. Officials are blaming COVID-19 for making cybercriminals more aggressive, with much online fraud occurring overseas, where lockdown measures and economic factors have a stronger effect on citizens who turn to other crime to stay financially afloat as well as possibly acting from sheer boredom. Since COVID-19, much more business is conducted online instead of in-person. People are working from home and utilizing less safe email platforms such as Gmail and Hotmail. Many restaurants and retailers have moved to conducting more business online, online teleconferencing platforms use is at an all time high, and in-person banking activities have reduced showcasing how people are relying on the internet for much of their activities and subsequently growing the environment in which cybercriminals conduct their activities.

Phishing scams which involve emails that appear to come from a legitimate source, but are actually scams, account for many the fraud activities online. Scammers may try to gain personal information from an individual to hack into their accounts or may fool individuals into downloading a program which contains malware or ransomware. Extortion is also increasing. Scammers may contact individuals stating they have a video or photograph of the individual participating in a sexual or illicit act, and demand money so the criminal does not release the information to the family members of the victim. Additionally, scammers may try to use previously hacked credentials located on the dark web and then making individuals believe they have access to their accounts. However, the breached information is usually old and unless one uses duplicate passwords on other platforms, there is nothing the scammer can do with the breached information. As victims are unaware of these limitations, they tend to pay from fear of information being released. The pandemic has also allowed cybercriminals to use COVID-19 as a ruse with some individuals report receiving text messages which advise they are COVID-19 positive and include links to a website where fake COVID-19 products are sold.



Cybercriminals are not only attacking individuals but are also trying to cause havoc on governments and infrastructure. The FBI has recently released an advisory on Russian hackers who are targeting USA hospitals and healthcare organizations. A number of hospitals have been under attack in recent days. The hackers use a TrickBot network of computers which are infected, penetrating the organizations and their networks. The TrickBot malware conducts credential harvesting, mail exfiltration, and crypto mining. The malware then deploys a ransomware, known as Ryuk, compromising the network, and requesting money in exchange for its return. Surprisingly, hackers have seemed to stay away from hospital attacks, but this specific group is reported to be brazen and aggressive, with some advising they may account for the “most significant security threat ever seen in the USA”.

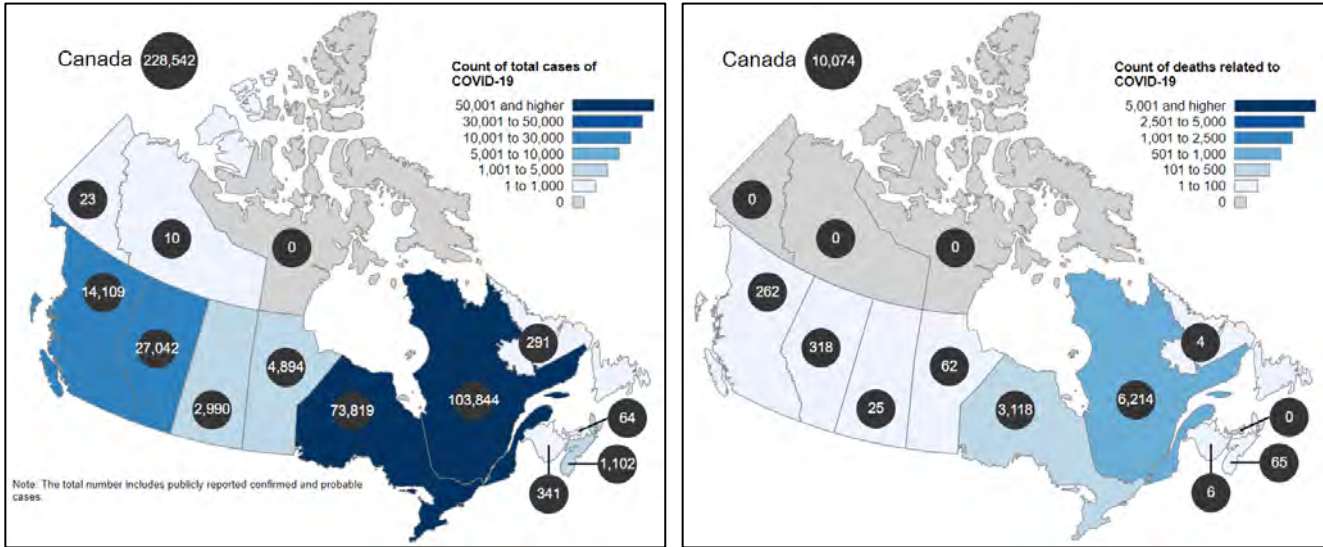
Microsoft has taken down an extensive network associated with TrickBot malware, shutting down almost all of the 69 command and control servers used by the group. The hackers set up another 59 servers, which saw all but one taken down. Additionally, Microsoft advised it protected the USA election system from a “crippling” ransomware attack. By doing so, Microsoft stopped researchers from understanding how the group works, allowing the group to come up with new and creative ways to commit cybercrime without being caught or detected. Hackers have now turned to targeting other types of online devices, including routers and other equipment containing a connection to the internet, known as the Internet-of-Things (IoT) devices, such as wi-fi enabled cameras or even doorbells.

Businesses should educate their employees about suspicious online behavior, including phishing scams, and how to safeguard themselves by checking logs and installing patches. Forcing employees to have lengthy passwords that are changed frequently is another measure that should be implemented. It is also recommended that no ransom should be paid for Ransomware attacks as it does not guarantee the recovery of the files and network. Paying the ransom may reinforce and exacerbate cybercriminal actions, inviting them to cause more ransomware attacks. Instead, businesses should regularly backup data offline and in an encrypted format, and implement a recovery plan to maintain multiple copies of proprietary data in a physically separate and secure location. Some businesses have gone as far as send their own phishing like emails to their employees in an effort to see whether they can be compromised.

Individuals should also practice watchful online behavior at home and in their personal lives. This includes not clicking on emails that they were not expecting or do not recognize, making sure that programs are up to date to ensure all security patches are fixed, using anti-virus software, limiting the amount of personal information shared online, and utilizing strong and long passwords which include letters, upper case letters, numbers and symbols. Additional tips include utilizing different email addresses for various accounts, including separate addresses for newsletters, retail or food accounts, and personal accounts such as government accounts (CRA) or their financial institution. Cybercriminals are often only successful by socially engineering their attacks. With the correct information most people can secure their online presence, unless a breach occurs within an organization which loses their information. It is recommended to reduce signups for new accounts and to utilize the internet with caution.



### 3. COVID-19 IN CANADA

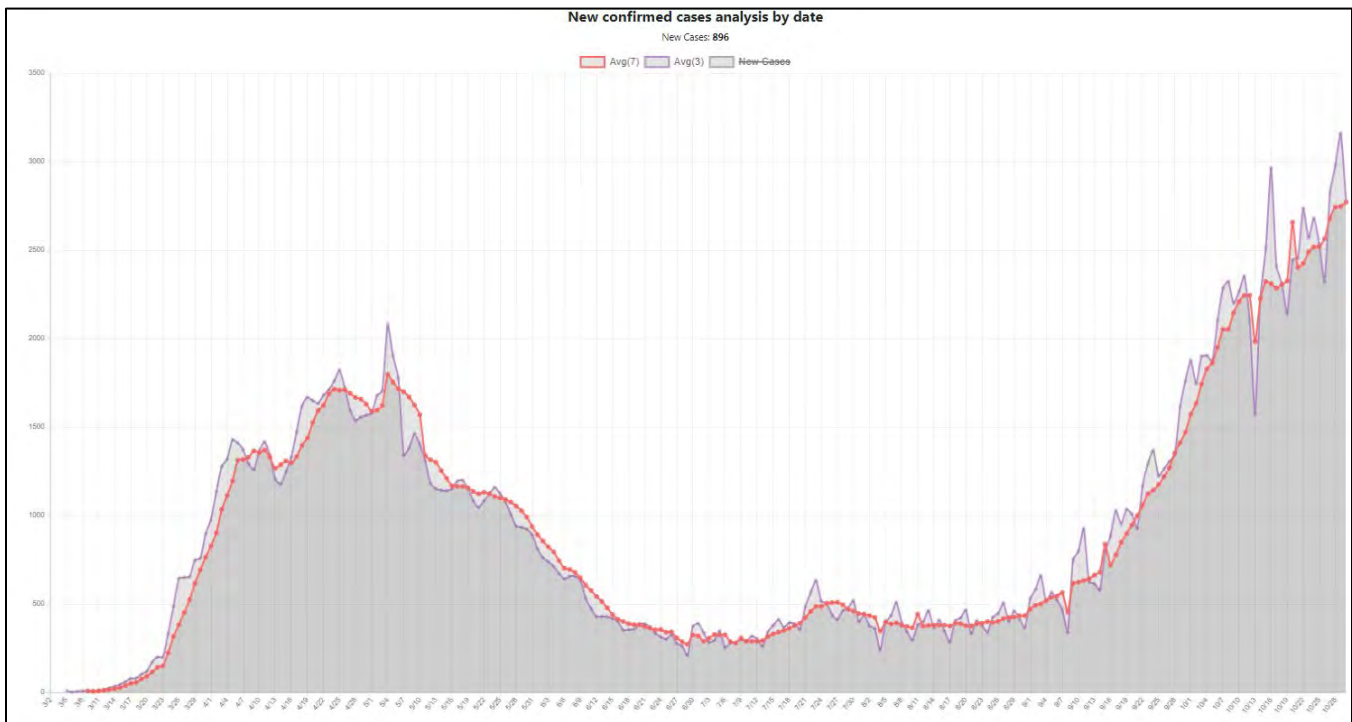


Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

Prov.	Total Confirmed	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Active
<b>Total</b>	<b>229,438</b> (↑896)	<b>10,083</b> (↑9)	<b>192,005</b> (↑796)	<b>27,350</b> (↑91)
BC	14,109	262	11,448	2,399
ON	74,715 (↑896)	3,127 (↑9)	63,919 (↑796)	7,669 (↑91)
QC	103,844	6,214	88,442	9,188
AB	27,042	318	21,803	4,921
MB	4,894	62	2,423	2,409
NB	341	6	294	41
SK	2,990	25	2,258	707
PEI	64	0	64	0
NL	291	4	283	4
NS	1,102	65	1,033	4
YT	23	0	17	6
NT	10	0	8	2
NU	0	0	0	0
	13	0	13	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.4%	↑ 0.1%	↑ 0.4%	↑ 0.3%



Prov.	Total Test	Total Waiting	Total Hosp	Total ICU
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,547,150 (+41,008)</b>	-	-	-
BC	817,076	-	86	24
ON	5,068,007 (+41008)	41063 (+989)	314 (-8)	75 (-2)
QC	3,052,900	-	509	78
AB	1,776,206	-	130	18
MB	251,461	-	97	17
NB	101,030	-	4	0
SK	258,143	-	20	6
PEI	44,669	60	-	-
NL	51,876	-	0	0
NS	111,825	-	0	0
YT	4,031	40	-	-
NT	6,425	26	0	0
NU	3,501	521	0	0
Rate of change	↑ <b>0.4%</b>	-	-	-

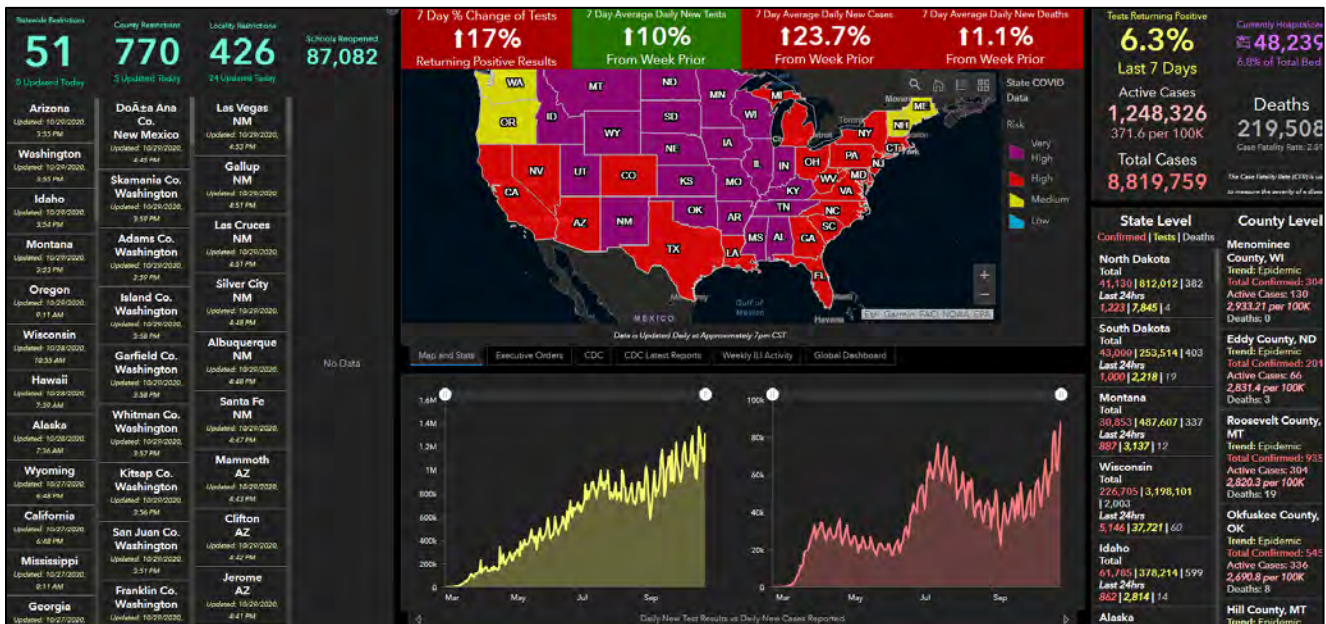


Source: <https://www.covid-19canada.com>

### 3.1. CANADA NEWS

- [Canada adds 2,695 new coronavirus infections as case count tops 225K](#)
- [New BC health order limits number of guests allowed in private homes](#)
- [No 'safe 6' in Fraser Health area as residents are asked to restrict gatherings to household members only](#)
- [Surge of COVID-19 cases hammering Manitoba's healthcare system](#)
- [Canadian ICUs brace for COVID-19 resurgence on top of the flu](#)
- [Tam says she's encouraged by 'smaller outbreaks' in long-term care during 2nd wave](#)
- [As the pandemic takes mental toll on Quebec students, teachers are trying new ways to keep them learning](#)
- [Opioid deaths skyrocket, mental health suffers due to pandemic restrictions, new federal report says](#)

### 4. COVID-19 IN USA





USA State	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
USA Total	9,219,679	234,244	5,985,217	3,000,218	27,854	708	141,759,259	428,272	
<a href="#">Texas</a>	942,486	18,402	789,067	135,017	32,504	635	8,782,931	302,903	28,995,881
<a href="#">California</a>	925,055	17,571	475,301	432,183	23,412	445	18,323,771	463,749	39,512,223
<a href="#">Florida</a>	794,624	16,656	561,288	216,680	36,998	776	9,855,604	458,875	21,477,737
<a href="#">New York</a>	539,715	33,643	418,045	88,027	27,744	1,729	14,243,871	732,199	19,453,561
<a href="#">Illinois</a>	400,171	9,945	277,183	113,043	31,580	785	7,542,098	595,187	12,671,821
<a href="#">Georgia</a>	356,848	7,923	196,402	152,523	33,610	746	3,845,201	362,160	10,617,423
<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	269,021	4,283	231,611	33,127	25,650	408	3,950,641	376,679	10,488,084
<a href="#">Tennessee</a>	256,880	3,263	227,271	26,346	37,615	478	3,623,338	530,568	6,829,174
<a href="#">Arizona</a>	242,480	5,918	40,697	195,865	33,314	813	2,063,763	283,534	7,278,717
<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	239,375	16,464	180,790	42,121	26,950	1,854	4,572,531	514,798	8,882,190
<a href="#">Wisconsin</a>	214,996	1,948	168,117	44,931	36,925	335	2,018,461	346,670	5,822,434
<a href="#">Ohio</a>	208,997	5,325	165,302	38,370	17,880	456	4,353,017	372,400	11,689,100
<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	208,087	8,837	156,214	43,036	16,254	690	2,716,797	212,217	12,801,989
<a href="#">Michigan</a>	190,043	7,653	114,939	67,451	19,029	766	5,167,340	517,414	9,986,857
<a href="#">Alabama</a>	189,149	2,914	81,005	105,230	38,577	594	1,391,620	283,820	4,903,185
<a href="#">Missouri</a>	186,194	3,047	49,379	133,768	30,337	496	2,599,205	423,501	6,137,428

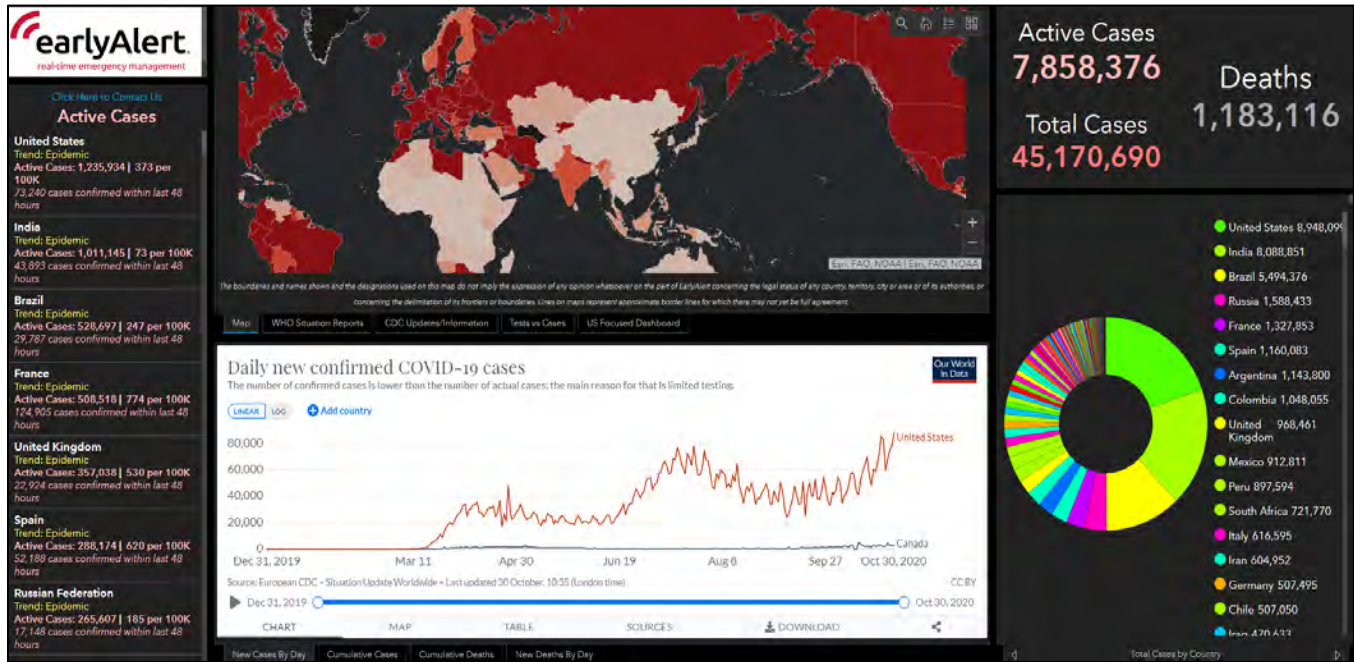
#### 4.1. USA NEWS

- ['There's no way to sugarcoat it': COVID-19 cases are surging; one American dies every 107 seconds](#)
- [Wisconsin reports 3,800 new cases, 45 deaths and a record-high seven-day positivity rate of 27.2%](#)
- [Dr. Anthony Fauci says U.S. is in a 'bad position' as daily coronavirus cases hit record highs](#)
- [California projected an October surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations. It didn't happen](#)
- [More than 40 states are reporting an increase in Covid-19 cases and many in the Midwest are seeing record hospitalizations](#)
- [Younger patients, better treatment may be cause of COVID-19 death rate drop](#)
- [COVID-19 concerns in a solid red state, voters divided on Trump presidency](#)
- [US at 'critical point' as COVID-19 cases up nationwide](#)





5. GLOBAL COMMON OPERATING PICTURE





		Total Confirmed		Total Deaths		Total Recovered			Mortality Rate	
		45,504,076		1,188,523		33,069,538			2.61%	
#	Country	Confirmed	Deaths	Recov.	Mort.	Critical	Active	Cases /1M	Active /1M	Deaths /1M
1	USA us	9,219,150 (+6,383)	234,236 (+59)	5,984,941	2.5%	16,940	2,999,973	27,798	n/a	706
2	India IN	8,089,593 (+1,547)	121,144 (+13)	7,373,375	1.5%	8,944	595,074	5,843	n/a	88
3	Brazil BR	5,496,402	159,033	4,954,159	2.9%	8,318	383,210	25,798	n/a	746
4	Russia RU	1,599,976 (+18,283)	27,656 (+355)	1,200,560	1.7%	2,300	371,760	10,962	n/a	189
5	France FR	1,282,769	36,020	115,287	2.8%	3,156	1,131,462	19,638	n/a	551
6	Spain ES	1,238,922	35,639	n/a	2.9%	2,404	1,203,283	26,495	n/a	762
7	Argentina AR	1,143,800	30,442	946,134	2.7%	4,981	167,224	25,232	n/a	672
8	Colombia CO	1,053,122	30,926	950,348	2.9%	2,365	71,848	20,625	n/a	606
9	UK GB	965,340	45,955	n/a	4.8%	957	919,385	14,195	n/a	676
10	Mexico MX	912,811 (+5,948)	90,773 (+464)	668,667	9.9%	2,838	153,371	7,055	n/a	702
11	Peru PE	897,594	34,362	819,717	3.8%	1,052	43,515	27,100	n/a	1,037
12	South Africa ZA	721,770	19,164	649,935	2.7%	546	52,671	12,120	n/a	322
13	Italy IT	616,595	38,122	279,282	6.2%	1,651	299,191	10,203	n/a	631
14	Iran IR	604,952 (+8,011)	34,478 (+365)	477,300	5.7%	5,128	93,174	7,172	n/a	409
15	Chile CL	507,050	14,118	483,922	2.8%	748	9,010	26,450	n/a	736
16	Germany DE	505,310 (+6,957)	10,474 (+39)	345,700	2.1%	1,696	149,136	6,025	n/a	125
17	Iraq IQ	470,633 (+2,878)	10,862 (+47)	397,241	2.3%	442	62,530	11,617	n/a	268
18	Indonesia ID	406,945 (+2,897)	13,782 (+81)	334,295	3.4%	n/a	58,868	1,483	n/a	50
19	Bangladesh BU	406,364 (+1,604)	5,905 (+19)	322,703	1.5%	n/a	77,756	2,459	n/a	36
20	Belgium BE	392,258 (+23,921)	11,308 (+138)	24,443	2.9%	1,057	356,507	33,797	n/a	974
21	Philippines PH	378,933 (+2,006)	7,185 (+38)	330,457	1.9%	1,483	41,291	3,443	n/a	65
22	Ukraine UA	378,729 (+8,312)	7,041 (+173)	155,026	1.9%	177	216,662	8,677	n/a	161
23	Turkey TR	370,832	10,099	320,762	2.7%	1,916	39,971	4,381	n/a	119
24	Saudi Arabia SA	346,680 (+398)	5,383 (+20)	333,409	1.6%	766	8,088	9,914	n/a	154
25	Netherlands NL	341,374 (+11,119)	7,345 (+87)	n/a	2.2%	580	334,029	19,908	n/a	428
26	Poland PL	340,834 (+21,629)	5,351 (+202)	134,724	1.6%	1,254	200,759	9,009	n/a	141
27	Pakistan PK	332,186 (+1,078)	6,795 (+20)	313,527	2.0%	632	11,864	1,494	n/a	31

6. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME REPORTING

- [Police Pin a Rise in Murders on an Unusual Suspect: Covid](#)
- [Philadelphia sets citywide curfew to quell unrest after fatal shooting of Black man](#)
- [3 dead in 'terrorist' knife attack in French church, second beheading in two weeks](#)

7. TRAVEL

- [Is it safe to travel for Thanksgiving? Here's what health experts are doing for the holiday](#)
- [United Airlines to offer free coronavirus testing for passengers on select routes](#)
- [Boeing reports losses for 4th straight quarter amid COVID-19, grounded 737s](#)

8. SOLUTION AND RESPONSE EFFORTS

- [It may be time to reset expectations on when we'll get a Covid-19 vaccine](#)
- [Lilly Races Ahead on a Single-Antibody Covid-19 Treatment](#)
- [A room, a bar and a classroom: how the coronavirus is spread through the air](#)



## 9. MEDICAL INFORMATION

- [More than 80% of COVID patients vitamin D deficient: study](#)
- [Flu vaccine may lower risk for severe COVID-19, study suggests](#)
- [U.S. to pay US\\$375m for Vancouver-linked COVID-19 therapeutic](#)

## 10. INTERNATIONAL DATA

- [Over 500,000 virus cases recorded worldwide in new single-day high](#)
- [Slovak government tests the nation for COVID – as well as its patience](#)
- [France, Germany face new round of coronavirus lockdowns as cases surge](#)
- [Record 200 Days With No Local Case Makes Taiwan World's Envy](#)
- [Russia Sets Single-Day Records for Coronavirus Deaths and Infections](#)
- [The outbreak is so bad in Belgium, some Covid-positive health workers are being asked to keep working](#)

## 11. ECONOMIC IMPACT

- [Dow sinks more than 900 points for its worst drop since June amid rising virus cases globally](#)
- [U.S. economy expands at record 33.1% pace after COVID plunge](#)
- [Bank of Canada says economy will likely be scarred by COVID-19 until 2023](#)
- [1,700 UK employers planned redundancies in September](#)
- ['I applied for around 90 jobs': unemployed and furloughed in a pandemic](#)

## 12. CYBER NEWS

- [Cybercrime booming during the pandemic](#)
- ["Brazen" Russian ransomware hackers target hundreds of US hospitals](#)
- [Iranian Hackers Target 'High-Profile' Conference Amid Rise In State-Sponsored Hacking](#)

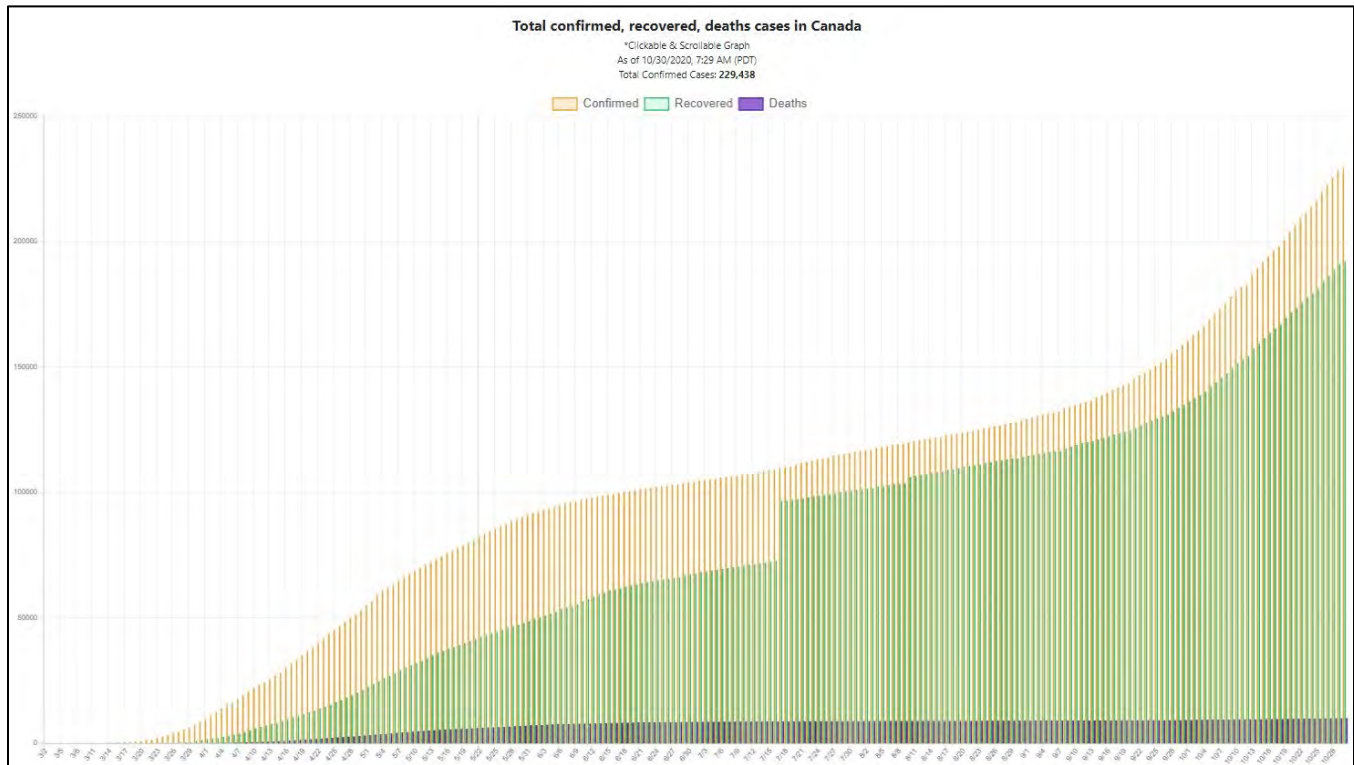
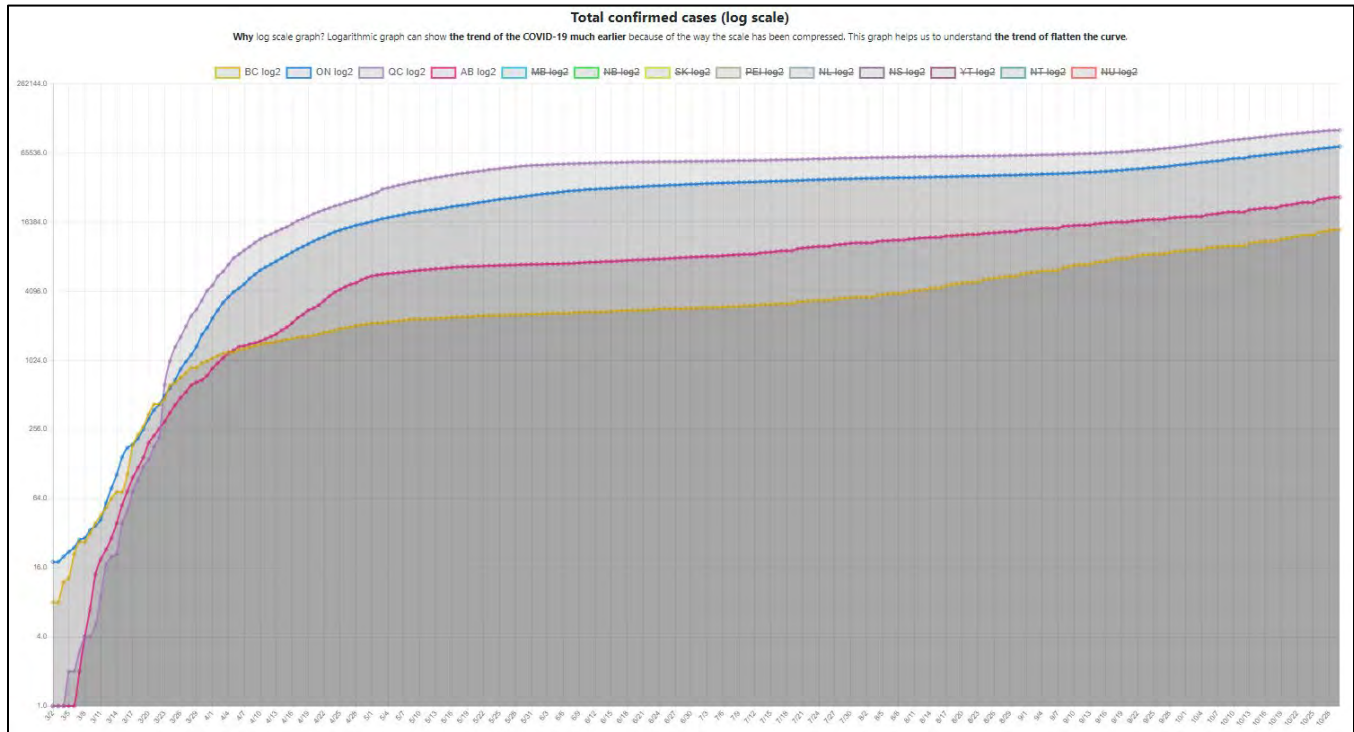
End Report

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*Please submit feedback to:*

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[smcgregor@paladinrisksolutions.com](mailto:smcgregor@paladinrisksolutions.com)

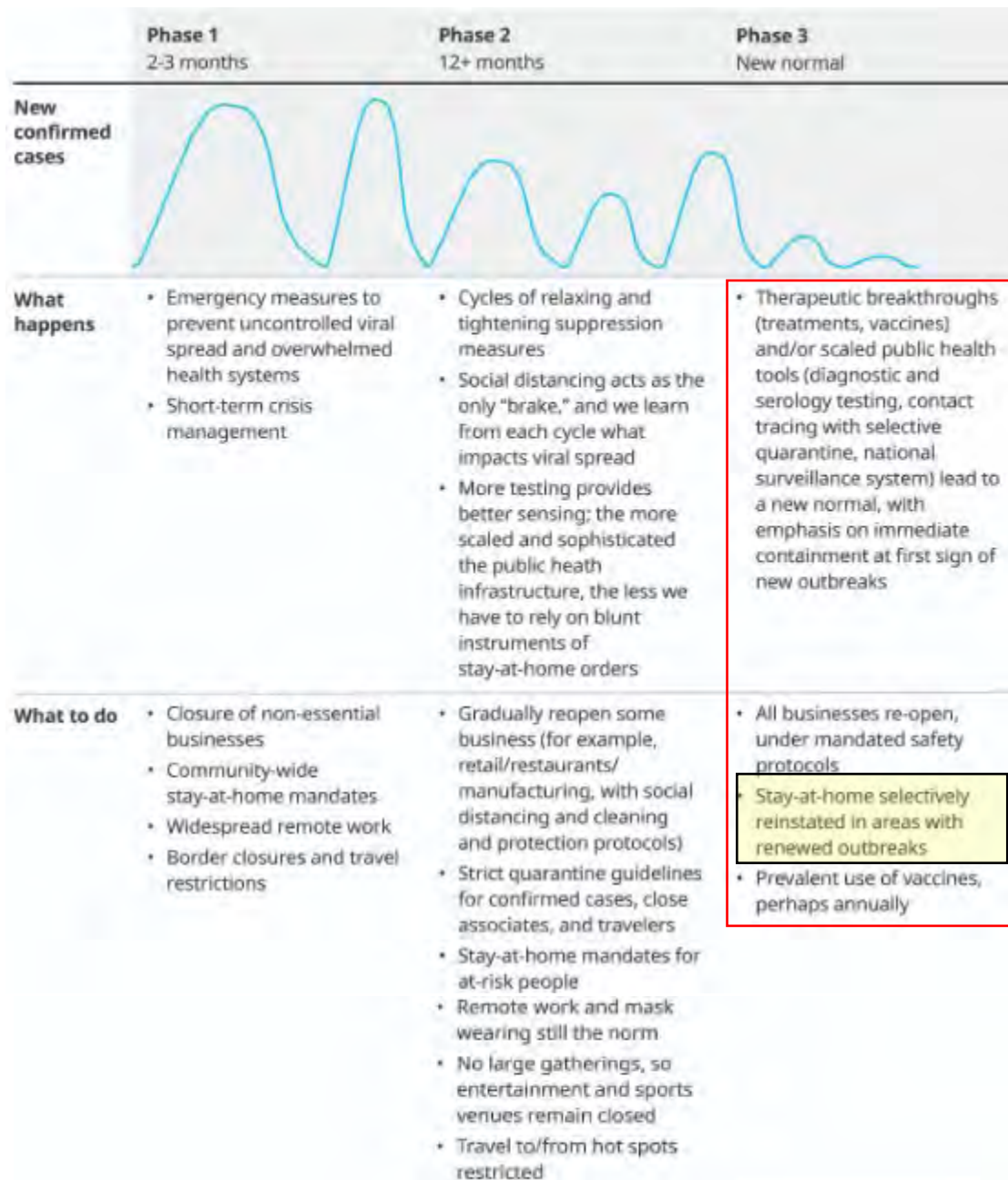
### 13. APPENDIX A – Canadian Tracking Information



Source: <https://www.covid-19canada.com/graphs>



14. APPENDIX B – Phase 1 to 3: Progression on Managing COVID-19 Pandemic



Source: <https://www.oliverwyman.com/our-expertise/insights/2020/apr/getting-back-to-work-responsibly.html>



**15. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES**



Paladin Risk Solutions is one of the largest, full-service risk mitigation and investigation providers in Canada. We are an industry leader in identifying and mitigating client risk by delivering consulting, intelligence, investigations, due diligence, cybercrime, OSINT and training solutions.

- Complete Intelligence and advisory, from a local, national and international lens
- Risk assessments for extractive industries, airports, seaports, pipelines, water, buildings and assets
- Complete Security consulting and audits, technology audits, project oversight and commissioning
- Emergency management and business continuity programs, consulting and training
- Cybercrime and Digital Investigation, Data Privacy and Protection, Cyber Security issues
- Executive Protection, threat management, and violence in the workplace
- Due diligence, AML, and Asset Tracing, on an international scale
- Background investigations and open source intelligence (OSINT)
- Surveillance and undercover operations
- Various training options as well as general investigative services

