

Update for Partners

COVID-19

May 1, 2020

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Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status				
	Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
As of May 1, 2020 at 13:00	283	159 (56%)	20 (7.1%)	7 (2 in ICU)
Since April 30	+5	+4	+4	-2
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46% of the cases (130) have been in people between the ages of 35 to 64 years, while 30% (85) have been reported in those aged 65 years or older. • 34% of cases are community acquired, with 23% acquired through close contact. • Females represent 57% of those infected with the virus. • 58 cases are related to institutional outbreaks with 6 ongoing and one declared over. SMDHU COVID-19 HealthSTATS page and the COVID-19 Case Explorer .				
Ontario COVID-19 Case Status				
	Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
As of May 1, 2020 at 10:30	16,608 +421 (2.6% increase)	10,825 (65.2%)	1,121 (6.7%)	1,017
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 294,054 tests have been completed, with 11,975 being investigated. • There are currently 225 people in ICU with 175 on ventilators. • There have been 198 outbreaks reported in long-term care homes accounting for almost 50% of the COVID-19 related deaths in the province. • 44.7% of cases are in those 60 years of age or older. • Females represent 57.4% of those infected with the virus. • The GTA represents almost 59.5% of cases in Ontario. Province of Ontario website				

Canada COVID-19 Case Status			
	Total cases	Recovered	Deceased
As of May 1, 2020 at 11:00	53,657	22,044 (41%)	3,223 (6%)
Since April 30	+1601 52,056	+1,124	+141
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada now ranks 12th in the highest number of cases of COVID-19 of any country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 832,222 people have been tested. The weekly percent positivity is 8%. The cumulative percent positivity is 6.9% Cough, headache and weakness are the most common symptoms reported. Based on available reports (56%, n=30,041) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Females represent 55% of those infected with the virus. 81% of cases are related to community transmission. The highest proportion of cases is in the 40-59 year old age group (32%), followed by the 20-39 year old age group (26%). 37% of cases are in those 60 years of age and older (representing 2 age groups). These individuals also have the highest proportion of hospitalizations (66%), ICU admissions (64%), Based on available hospitalization data (65%, n=30,041) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16% (3,087) people have been hospitalized, and almost 1 in 4 hospitalizations (741) received intensive care. <p>Government of Canada website and Canadian Epidemiologic summary</p>			
Global Situation (As of 20:00 CEST April 30, 2020)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Globally, the number of people who have been infected with COVID-19 has exceeded 3.1 million, with over 224,000 related deaths in 215 countries/areas/territories. One-third of the global cases are now from the United States with more cases (over 1 million) and deaths (over 55,000) than any other country in the world. 72,850 new cases were reported April 30th, + 6,424 from the day before. 9,785 new deaths were reported April 30th, + 4,407 from the day before. <p>WHO COVID-19 information dashboard and daily WHO Situation Report</p>			

Daily Updates

- Dr. Gardner's Facebook live media held today can be found on the [SMDHU Facebook page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).

SMDHU Key Messages

Re-opening:

- Provincial changes coming - Today Ontario Government announced it will allow more businesses to reopen on May 4, including garden centres and nurseries (curb-side pick-up and delivery only), car washes, car dealerships by appointment, lawn care and landscaping businesses and a wider array of construction projects shuttered under earlier orders. They also encouraged golf courses and marinas to prepare for the summer season as long as they stay closed to the public.

- It has prepared sector-specific guidelines to help protect workers, customers and the general public from COVID-19 as it prepares for a gradual reopening of the provincial economy. Guidelines released for six sectors including: Construction, Food processing, Restaurant and Food services, Agriculture Manufacturing, Long-term Care
- Our website will provide a link to this information shortly and whenever new sectors are added. Check back often for new information. Success will depend on all businesses, all workers and each of us to maintain the necessary precautions. Need to take small cautious steps. Information is linked on our webpage on a new [Reopening Your Business Safely](#) page.

Please stay at your primary residence:

- On Wednesday April 29, 2020, Dr. Gardner appeared on [CBC's Ontario Morning with Wei Chen](#). Dr. Gardner has asked the Chief Medical Officer of Health to advocate that the province include this in a directive (i.e. disallowing people to access their secondary residences at this time). Dr. Gardner will also continue to state to the public that they should not access their secondary residences in Simcoe Muskoka at this time.
- We heard from the Premier today that we need to proceed slowly and cautiously as we work to continue to push the curve down. You will note that marinas, golf courses and other seasonal businesses remain closed. We hope this reaffirms the message that it is not time to go to your seasonal residences whether it is in Simcoe County or the Muskoka region.
- SMDHU is appealing to informed, responsible people to stay home and help us all get through this public health emergency together.

Universal Basic Income

- We recognize the deep personal economic impact the pandemic is having on individuals and families and are in support of the financial measures both levels of government have contributed. We also recognize that inequities that existed before this crisis are being amplified and that people living on low incomes are subject to worse health outcomes and quality of life. There is a growing call from the senate and other politicians to implement a basic income for Canadians. We are pleased to see that last week, 50 members of Canada's Senate, including some of our own local politicians, wrote a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau calling on the government to implement a minimum basic income.
- It is a measure that our Board of Health has been advocating for a number of years. We have long been a champion of the concept of a universal basic income that ensures everyone an income sufficient to meet basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of work status. As the world evolves as we emerge from the pandemic we will continue to add our voices to the call for a universal basic income.

Local

- The Barrie Assessment Centre will be changing their hours of operation. Effective May 11 2020, the hours will be 8am–6pm Monday through Friday and 10am–4pm Saturday and Sunday. Up to and including May 10th, hours of operation will remain as 8am–8pm. The Barrie Assessment Centre will be launching a website: www.barriehealth.ca
- Stevenson Memorial in Alliston in need of PPE. [News clip](#)
- [Empower Simcoe](#) has posted resources that might be useful to you and your families. There are some great ideas here for staying entertained and active, learning something

new, and accessing supports if you need them. If you are looking for additional information to support your child or youth, please reach out.

- [Barrie seniors stay connected with phone chats](#). To sign up for the program, visit barrie.ca/SeniorsCentres, email recinfo@barrie.ca or call 705-739-4223 and leave your name and phone number.
- Collingwood OPP gets additional funding for mental health resources during pandemic, which will provide an additional mental health crisis worker. [article](#)
- Boots and Hearts, Big Sky music festivals cancelled, refunds being issued. [article](#)
- County Of Simcoe asking local businesses to fill out phase two of Covid-19 Economic Impact Survey. [article](#)
- Mental health services for local children and youth available over the phone and online. [article](#)
- Wasaga Beach doesn't have the resources to manage Wasaga Beach Provincial Park: Premier Ford is being urged to bring wardens back to the park. [article](#)
- Yard sales banned in Huntsville as COVID-19 measures continue in April. Councillors also extend property tax penalty deferrals, talk farmers' markets, boat launches and special events. [article](#)
- Director of Trillium Lakelands District School Board says money available for Muskoka students who need help: contact them if you have tech needs. [article](#)
- Orillia reopening landfill, loosening property maintenance restrictions to allow work that addresses potential health, safety and sanitation issues to proceed, starting May 1, 2020. [article](#)
- Barrie-Innisfil MPP reaching out with businesses, not-for-profits and other community leaders in her riding to get input on how economy should reopen. [article](#)

Provincial

- The Government of Ontario:
 - [Issued new temporary emergency orders](#) under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to support the immediate needs of the province's hospitals and health care workers so they can better manage critical health care human resources during COVID-19.
 - Announced [certain businesses can reopen](#) May 4 under strict safety guidelines including:
 - Garden centres and nurseries with curbside pick-up and delivery only;
 - Lawn care and landscaping;
 - Additional essential construction projects;
 - Automatic and self-serve car washes;
 - Auto dealerships, open by appointment only;
 - Golf courses to prepare for the upcoming season, but not open to the public; and
 - Marinas may also prepare for recreational boating season by servicing boats and other watercraft and placing boats in the water, but not open to the public. Boats and watercraft must be secured to a dock in the marina until public access is allowed.

- Released [resources to prevent covid-19 in the workplace](#), as a source of guidance for specific work sectors. As new sectors of the economy begin to reopen, additional COVID-19 workplace safety resources will be added.
 - Resources include [downloadable](#) posters to promote a variety of useful safety tips on physical distancing and sanitation.
 - The 61 sector-specific guidelines are available [here](#) from Ontario's health and safety associations.
 - Guidelines for construction are available [here](#).
- Released [safety guidelines](#) to those working in manufacturing, food manufacturing and processing, restaurant and food service, and the agricultural sector. The Ontario government is ensuring employers have the safety guidelines they need to protect workers, customers, and the general public from COVID-19 as it prepares for a gradual reopening of the provincial economy.
- Launched a [new free 511 app for truckers](#) to have immediate access to the information they need to stay safe, fed and rested while delivering essential goods.
- Announced it is [expanding the list of essential workers eligible for free emergency child care](#) during the COVID-19 outbreak. Those who will benefit include people who work in the food supply chain, retirement homes, grocery stores and pharmacies, and certain federal employees, including the military.
- [Announced](#) Ontario will be providing support for industrial and commercial electricity consumers during COVID-19

National

- Government of Canada [introduced Canada Emergency Student Benefit legislation](#) to support students who are not receiving the CERB. Students enrolled in post-secondary education, whose studies ended no earlier than December 2019 or high-school graduate who have applied for and will be attending a post-secondary program would receive \$1250 per month for up to four months (May – August 2020). Students with dependents or disabilities would receive an additional \$750).

International

- WHO published an [article](#) about protecting health care workers and communities while providing immunizations, which WHO has [urged](#) the continuation of during the pandemic.
- WHO has published technical guidance to support leaders and policy-makers in cities and other urban settings in implementing actions that enhance the prevention, preparedness and readiness for COVID-19, [Strengthening Preparedness for Covid-19 in Cities and Urban Settings](#).

SMDHU Resources

- SMDHU [COVID-19 HealthSTATS page](#) and the [COVID-19 Case Explorer](#).
- SMDHU Health Connection line responds to calls and emails about COVID-19. Contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext. 5829 or via [email](#).
 - Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Saturday-Sunday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- [SMDHU Vulnerable Populations for COVID-19 Response Interactive Map](#) highlights vulnerable populations (e.g. seniors, persons living in low income) and places (e.g. long-term care homes, COVID-19 Assessment Centres) in Simcoe Muskoka.
- Current COVID-19 information is available on our [website](#).
- [Reopening your Business Safely](#)- includes sector-specific guidelines that employers can plan for as they prepare to adapt to the new reality during COVID-19.
- **Partners and Essential Workplaces**- two expander bars were added:
 - [Community Gardens](#)- A community garden has either individual or shared plots of land or garden beds on private or public land that community members can use to grow fresh fruits and vegetables. This [guidance document](#) is for municipal staff, volunteers and garden users to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19, while using a shared garden space.
 - [Short Term Rentals](#)- Short term rentals (e.g. Air B&B, VRBO/seasonal rentals) for accommodations booked after April 4, 2020 must only be provided to individuals who are in need of housing during the emergency period. This does not apply to hotels, motels and student residences.
- **COVID-19 Main Page** information about cottages/seasonal residences has been added under an expander bar titled ["Avoid heading to your cottage or seasonal residence"](#).

Credible Sources of Information

- [Ontario Ministry of Health](#)
- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)