

Update for Partners

COVID-19

May 4, 2020

[Current Situation](#)

[Updates](#)

[SMDHU Resources](#)

[Credible Sources of Information](#)

Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status				
	Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
As of May 4, 2020 at 13:00	318	166 (52%)	20 (6.2%)	8
Since May 1	+35	+7	0	+1
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44% of the cases (141) have been in people between the ages of 35 to 64 years, while 31% (99) have been reported in those aged 65 years or older. • 34% of cases (107) are community acquired, with 24% (76) acquired through close contact with another case. • There are COVID-19 outbreaks in 4 long-term care and 3 retirement homes in our area. 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 4, 2020 at 10:30	17,923	12,505 (69.8%)	1,300 (7.3%)	984
Since May 3	+370 (2.1% increase)	+500	+84	
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 342,060 tests have been completed, with 6,265 being investigated. • 12.1% of cases have required hospitalization. • There are currently 225 people in ICU with 175 on ventilators. • There have been 212 outbreaks reported in long-term care homes accounting for almost 50% of the COVID-19 related deaths in the province. • 44.2% of cases are in those 60 years of age or older. • Females represent 57.5% of those infected with the virus. 				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GTA represents almost 60.1% of cases in Ontario. Province of Ontario website 			
Canada COVID-19 Case Status			
	Total cases	Recovered	Deceased
As of May 4, 2020 at 11:00	59,844		3,766
Since May 3	+2,696	As of May 3 24,416	+160
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada ranks 12th in the highest number of cases and deaths of COVID-19 globally. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 919,368 people have been tested. Cough, headache and weakness are the most common symptoms reported. Government of Canada website and Canadian Epidemiologic summary 			
Global Situation (As of 02:00 CEST May 4, 2020)			
Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths	Countries, areas or territories with cases.	
3,442,234	239,740	215	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since May 1, three new areas reported cases of COVID-19 (Yemen, Comoros and Tajikistan). One-third of the global cases are now from the United States with more cases (over 1.1 million) and deaths (over 66,000) than any other country in the world, followed by Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom, and Germany. 84,164 new cases were reported May 3rd, a decrease of 6,235 from the day before. 6,930 new deaths were reported May 3rd, an increase of 1,127 from the day before. WHO COVID-19 information dashboard ; daily WHO Situation Report ; WHO weekly updates			

Updates

- Dr. Gardner’s Facebook live media held today can be found on the [SMDHU Facebook page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).
- NOTE** - Beginning May 11, Dr. Gardner’s media briefings and this Partner Update will be produced on Tuesdays and Fridays only.

SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Key Messages

Recommendations on using seasonal or secondary residences

- Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, has provided recommendations on using seasonal or secondary residences such that “people should preferentially stay home and not access secondary residences, recognizing that there may be limited, essential reasons to do so.” This messaging is in line with ones I have been stating over the last several weeks. Of note if people do access their secondary residence we strongly encourage them to stay “home” at their secondary residence, to continue to practice physical distancing, not having social gatherings, and to maintain proper hygiene including hand washing, coughing/sneezing into your elbow and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Mother's Day

- The nicest thing that you can do for your mother, or grandmother is to stay away and reach out through technology or maintain distance. It is a sacrifice for all, but one that will keep her and you safe.

Children and COVID-19

- Dr. Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, is looking into Australian data that shows children may not be super spreaders of COVID-19, as they have been seen to be with influenza. COVID-19 has had an unusually small impact on the majority of children - only 2.3% of Ontario's confirmed cases are children under 19.
- More studies are needed and Canadian data will be available once Quebec schools open again with physical distancing and other precautions. It is important to learn about the dangers of transmission and harm done by keeping children out of school for extended period of time.
- Toronto has seen cases in a childcare centre for essential service workers' children and are investigating. In response to these concerns, staff at all of these centres will be tested over the next two weeks. Public health units are leading the coordination of this testing and the goal is to have it completed within the next two weeks.

Continued Health Unit services for those who are pregnant and/or breastfeeding

- We know that this is a challenging time for families that are pregnant or who have just brought babies home from the hospital. Our staff continue to offer:
 - one-on-one supports for pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum individuals and families via Health Connection, which is our telephone/email service staffed by public health nurses;
 - online prenatal classes;
 - support for breastfeeding families through:
 - appointments two days a week via the Barrie and Community Family Health Team Breastfeeding Clinic; and
 - telephone assessment support to South Simcoe families in our Infant Feeding Pilot program; and
 - telephone support to families involved in the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program.
- Call/email Health Connection if you are looking for support or information about programs we continue to offer.

Mental Health Week

- I have spoken to how difficult this pandemic, and the isolation, has been and continues to be on people's mental health. COVID-19 has significantly changed the way in which we live our lives. Many people are feeling anxiety and or anger. We know that being socially connected is important for people, especially in times of stress. In fact, social connectedness is actually a determinant of health, one of those factors that impacts our health and determines how healthy we are and how long we live.
- We have a "Support for You" section on our website with resources and services for those who may be struggling. Our Health Connection line is still open seven days a week and our public health staff can walk you through some ways to help you cope. Reach out, make a phone call, send a card, and check in on your neighbours.

- What can you do for yourself? Focus on self-care, establish a daily routine; get proper rest; eat food that's healthy; get outside and exercise; and try to avoid using substances to cope. Be patient and kind with yourself and others.

Local

- Innisfil council gives \$25,000 to food bank to give out COVID-19 kits. [video clip](#)
- Burl's Creek summer music festivals officially cancelled. [article](#)
- Huntsville postpones May 5 summer camp registration. [article](#)
- Orillia hosting online forum about Downtown Tomorrow grant program. [article](#)
- City Of Barrie Launches "Together At Home" Digital Hub: The Hub Provides A Variety Of Recreational Activities And Resources. [article](#)
- Simcoe County Museum Offers Variety Of On Line Activities during Museum Month: Museum from Home Experience Offers Safe and Fun Learning Experience. [article](#)

Provincial

- The provincial Chief Medical Officer of Health:
 - Issued guidance to Medical Officers of Health around secondary residences which recommends that access to secondary residences not be prohibited through the use of legal orders issues under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. The CMOH key message will continue to be that people should stay home and not access secondary residences.
 - Stated "... We're not yet disrupting community transmission adequately at this time... While the numbers are coming down slowly... we'd like to see it progressing even quicker. That means everyone needs to adhere to the physical distancing... So while you enjoy the outdoors, while you're getting out and around, plan ahead, do so carefully"
- The Government of Ontario:
 - Updated provincial testing guidance, quick reference public health guidance on testing and clearance, reference documents for symptoms and patient screening guidance.
 - Continues to support mental health needs during COVID-19. [statement](#)
 - Has significantly increased daily lab testing which is critical to stop the spread of COVID-19. [news release](#)
 - Ontario takes additional steps to improve health care flexibility during COVID-19 outbreak: Emergency orders [issued](#) to help better manage health care resources.
 - Developed a guidance document for essential, non-health care workplaces outlining what workplaces can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
 - Created a new [guidance document for Labour, Delivery and Newborn Care](#).
 - Uploaded [guidance for Community-Based Mental Health and Addiction Service Providers in Residential Settings](#).
 - Released a memo that they are temporarily accepting assistive device applications via fax and email.
- The public is being warned about a scam where callers are pretending to be staff members of Toronto Public Health. [article](#)

National

- The Government of Canada:
 - [Announced](#) an additional investment to develop, expand and launch virtual care and mental health tools to support Canadians.
 - [Announced](#) the government is investing in antibody discovery technology to help treat COVID-19, an innovative project to combat COVID-19 and build Canadian capabilities to fight future pandemics.
 - Created a [COVID-19 Supply Council](#) to provide government on advice on the procurement of critical goods and services required for response and recovery.
 - Announced the launch of the [Coronavirus Global Response](#), which aims to raise more than \$8 billion (USD) to help researchers and innovators develop solutions to test, treat, and protect people, and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.
 - Announced [increased family support](#) through the Canada Child Benefit.
- The Prime Minister [announced](#) virtual care and mental health tools for Canadians.
- Today [the Canada Border Services Agency](#) along with other law enforcement partners paid tribute to healthcare workers with a parade of sirens and lights at Woodbine Centre Mall.
- Rapid test for COVID-19 recalled after Health Canada expresses concerns. [article](#)
- Experts urge Canada to build a free mental healthcare system in wake of pandemic. [article](#)
- COVID-19 outbreaks in 23 First Nations prompting concerns. [article](#)
- Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec begin lifting some COVID-19 restrictions. [article](#)

International

- [Daily reports](#) have been reformatted to improve accessibility for persons with visual impairment.
- Weekly summary reports are being produced which has global indicators for COVID-19 preparedness and response. The three indicators with the least amount of countries reporting adherence are: having a COVID-19 community engagement plan, having an Infection Prevention and Control programme and WASH (water, sanitation and health) standards within all healthcare facilities; and having a clinical referral system in place to care for COVID-19 cases.
- WHO published an updated assessment of [Country Preparedness and Response Status](#)

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](#). **New/Updated information:**

- [Reopening your Business Safely](#): Added: The Ontario Government is releasing information to help businesses get ready to open. At this time the [Declaration of Emergency and Closure Orders](#) are still in place.
- [Support For You](#): added [Coping with the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) video.

Credible Sources of Information

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