

Update for Partners

COVID-19

May 8, 2020

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Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of May 8, 2020 at 13:00)				
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
360	+7	184	25	11
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42% of the cases (151) have been in people between the ages of 35 to 64 years, while 32.2% (116) have been reported in those aged 65 years or older. 35.5% of cases (128) are community acquired, with 22.2% (80) acquired through close contact with another case. There are COVID-19 outbreaks in 2 long-term care and 4 retirement homes in our area. See the list of current institutional outbreaks for more details. SMDHU COVID-19 HealthSTATS page and the COVID-19 Case Explorer .				
Ontario COVID-19 Case Status (As of May 8, 2020 at 10:30)				
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
19,598	477 (2.5% increase)	13,990 (71.4%)	1,540 (7.9%)	1,028
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 397,149 tests have been completed, with 14,641 being investigated. 12.4% of cases have been hospitalized. There are currently 213 people in ICU and 166 on ventilators. There have been 234 outbreaks reported in long-term care homes. The GTA represents almost 61.3% of cases in Ontario. Province of Ontario website				
Canada COVID-19 Case Status (As of May 8, 2020 at 11:00)				
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deceased	
65,399	1,504	28,518 (45%) As of May 7 th	4,471	
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quebec continues to report the highest number of total and daily cases of COVID-19 in Canada. The rate of increase in COVID-19 cases continues to decline nationally. 				

- Three provinces and three territories had no new cases of COVID-19 yesterday.
- Over 1 million Canadians have been tested for COVID-19.

[Government of Canada website](#) and [Canadian Epidemiologic summary](#)

Global Situation (As of 14:40 CEST May 8, 2020)		
Confirmed Cases	New Cases	Confirmed Deaths
3,759,967	83,837	259,474
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over one-third of global cases are from the United States with more cases (over 1.2 million) and deaths (over 67,000) than any other country in the world. • 215 countries, areas or territories have reported cases of COVID-19. • Highest number of reported COVID-19 cases in the world: United States, Spain, Italy, United Kingdom and Russia. • Highest number of COVID-19 deaths in the world: United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and France. <p>WHO COVID-19 information dashboard; daily WHO Situation Report</p>		

Updates

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

SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Key Messages

New symptoms to watch for

- The Ministry of Health added a number of new symptoms to the list of possible COVID links: pink eye (atypical), vomiting and abdominal pain, diarrhea, excessive sneezing, a hoarse voice and difficulty swallowing.
- The expanded list helps to cast a larger net and offers a better sense of the spread of the virus within the community.
- People should be monitoring their health. If you have even one or two of the symptoms you should be screened. We have a [self-assessment tool](#) on our website and a list of assessment centres and hours on our [COVID-19 page](#) on our website.

Concern about misinformation being shared in number of ways including social media

- Stories, conspiracy theories and misinformation being shared about everything from where the virus originated (claims it was created in a laboratory and released), to fake cures (there are none), to how it is purposely being spread. Sharing this misinformation can perpetuate myths and divide people at a time we should all be working together.
- It is important before you share information about COVID-19 to investigate the source, trace claims, quotations and stories to their original context and share information only from credible sources like the [COVID-19 information on our website](#).

COVID-19 and the built environment

- The famous example of the 1854 English physician John Snow and an outbreak of cholera in London showed how community design at the time led to contamination of drinking water.
- Reduction of infectious diseases, like cholera in the example above, is not the only health benefit that can be achieved with intentional health promoting design of living spaces and communities. Urban design can be used to promote active transportation, access to shade, opportunities for social interaction, clean air, and many other benefits.
- Within the context of COVID-19, there is a movement to reclaim spaces usually reserved for cars to support physical distancing measures during the pandemic, e.g. closing lanes

of traffic for pedestrian and cyclist use, using parking lots for physically distancing tables on restaurant patios.

- The health unit has been a long-time advocate in championing work on creating healthier built environments by:
 - Advocating for healthy public policy promoting the inclusion of healthy community design policy statements into official plans and municipal policies.
 - Engaging with our communities to ensure communities are designed in the healthiest way possible.
 - Supporting the preservation of green spaces

Long-term care home testing strategy and results to date

- Testing in Simcoe Muskoka has been completed at 16 long-term care homes (LTCH), with 1678 residents and 2028 staff tested. It is anticipated testing in three additional LTCH facilities will be completed today.
- Testing has also been completed in four retirement homes, with 256 residents and 103 staff tested.
- Testing in 12 LTCH will be completed next week.

Local

- Older adults urged not to delay care over fears about COVID-19. [article](#)
- Waypoint launches [COVID Frontline Wellness](#) for healthcare/frontline workers and first responders in our region, providing fast access to services and tools for mental well-being to help enhance resilience and manage mental health challenges.
- Penetanguishene manufacturer now producing 2,000 masks a day: IFM officials working toward medical-grade certification. [article](#)
- Orillia's COVID-19 hotline has been buzzing; no charges laid yet. [article](#)
- Seasonal residences:
 - ['This is not tourist time': Bracebridge mayor on cottagers' return.](#)
 - [Gravenhurst mayor talks seasonal residents, businesses adapting during pandemic.](#)
 - [Coming up to cottage country to party? Not so fast, says Premier Doug Ford.](#)
- [Midland's Chigamik Community Health Centre help](#) North Simcoe and Muskoka residents aged 12 years and older with online counselling sessions.
- Simcoe Muskoka health unit has been a hallmark of transparency during COVID-19. [article](#)

Provincial

- The Government of Ontario:
 - Supports job creators as people start returning to work and [continues to prepare for the next surges of reopening the economy.](#)
 - Released [plan to resume scheduled surgeries and procedures](#) providing a [comprehensive framework](#) to help hospitals assess their readiness and begin planning for gradual resumption of these procedures.
 - Posted [Guidance for Hospice Care.](#)
 - Posted [Screening Tool for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes.](#)
 - Launched a new [website on pandemic pay.](#)
 - Plans to start gathering race-based and socio-economic information from COVID-19 patients.
 - [Invests in forestry jobs and worker safety](#) during COVID-19.
 - Announced [funding for Virox Technologies](#) Inc. to double its production of disinfectants and create jobs. This is the first manufacturer to receive money from the Ontario Together Fund.

- Announced investments to provide people in [Bracebridge](#) and [Kingston](#) who are homeless or at risk of homelessness the housing and support services they need.
- [Eases Restrictions on Professional Sports Training Facilities](#).
- [Supports Job Creators as People Start Returning to Work: Government continues to prepare for the next stages of reopening the economy](#).

National

- The Government of Canada:
 - Announced [agreement to boost wages for essential workers](#).
 - Provided an [update](#) on Canadian Armed Forces' response to COVID-19.
 - Provides [tariff relief](#) to importers of certain medical goods.
 - Competition Bureau [warns businesses against making false or misleading claims](#) their products and services can prevent, treat or cure COVID-19.
- The [Canadian Pediatric Surveillance Program](#) is conducting rapid surveillance on COVID-19 in hospitalized children and non-hospitalized children with chronic co-morbid conditions as it is becoming clear that the spectrum of illness is wider than originally described for children.
- During today's press briefing, the Prime Minister announced plans to extend financial supports in place to help individuals and businesses during COVID-19. More details to come next week. ([Backgrounder](#): Support to Canadians and businesses affected by COVID-19).

International

- WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, reiterated that 'We cannot end the pandemic until we address the inequalities that are fueling it.'
- The WHO Regional Director for the Americas, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, warned that reducing social distancing measures "too soon could accelerate the spread of the virus and open the door for a dramatic upsurge or for spread to adjacent areas".
- To help increase the reach of WHO's efforts to stop the COVID-19 pandemic a [working group on COVID-19 and non-communicable diseases](#) (e.g. cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, COPD, diabetes, cancer, and mental health) has been established. WHO published [COVID-19 and Non-Communicable Diseases](#) (NCD) which highlights risk factors and conditions that make people more vulnerable, technical guidance, and tips for people living with NCDs.

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](#).

Credible Sources of Information

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