

## Update for Partners

### COVID-19

May 8, 2020

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### Current Situation

<b>Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status</b> (As of May 8, 2020 at 13:00)				
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
379	5	203	30	9
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30% of the cases (116) have been in people between the ages of 45 to 64 years, while 31% (119) have been reported in those aged 65 years or older.</li> <li>• 31% of cases (117) are community acquired, with 28% (106) acquired through close contact with another case.</li> <li>• There are COVID-19 outbreaks in two long-term care and three retirement homes in our area. See the <a href="#">list of current institutional outbreaks</a> for more details.</li> </ul> <p>SMDHU <a href="#">COVID-19 HealthSTATS page</a> and the <a href="#">COVID-19 Case Explorer</a>.</p>				
<b>Ontario COVID-19 Case Status</b> (As of May 8, 2020 at 10:30)				
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
20,907	361 (1.8% increase)	15,391 (73.6%)	1,725 (8.3%)	1,025
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 57.3% of all COVID-19 cases have been in female individuals.</li> <li>• 31% of the cases have been in people between the ages of 40 to 59 years, while 43% have been reported in those aged 60 years or older.</li> <li>• A total of 459,921 tests have been completed, with 10,811 being investigated.</li> <li>• 12.7% of cases have been hospitalized.</li> <li>• There are currently 192 people in ICU and 146 on ventilators.</li> <li>• There have been 249 outbreaks reported in long-term care homes.</li> <li>• The GTA represents almost 62.1% of cases in Ontario.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Province of Ontario website</a></p>				

<b>Canada COVID-19 Case Status</b> (As of May 8, 2020 at 11:00)			
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>New Cases</b>	<b>Recovered</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
70,342	1,186	32,455 (47%) As of May 11	5,049
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New cases continue to be reported across the country, however with a decreasing trend in daily reported cases.</li> <li>• Quebec continues to report the highest number of cases.</li> <li>• No new deaths were reported in ten provinces/territories within the past 24 hours.</li> <li>• The majority of deaths have been reported in Quebec and Ontario.</li> <li>• A total of 1,145,683 tests have been completed.</li> <li>• Canada now has more total deaths related to COVID-19 than China</li> </ul> <a href="#">Government of Canada website</a> and <a href="#">Canadian Epidemiologic Summary</a>			
<b>Global Situation</b> (As of 14:40 CEST May 8, 2020)			
<b>Confirmed Cases</b>	<b>New Cases</b>	<b>Confirmed Deaths</b>	
4,088,846	87,913	283,153	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 215 countries, areas or territories have reported cases of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Highest number of reported COVID-19 cases in the world: United States, Russia, Spain, United Kingdom, and Italy.</li> <li>• Highest number of COVID-19 deaths in the world: United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and France.</li> </ul> <a href="#">WHO COVID-19 information dashboard</a> ; daily <a href="#">WHO Situation Report</a>			

## Updates

- **NOTE** – Starting this week, 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**

### **Stigma & COVID-19**

- When an infectious disease outbreak becomes a pandemic people are understandably frightened and concerned. When the outbreak is caused by a new virus, rumours and misinformation run rampant. Stereotypes quickly arise about people who have or may have the disease. Groups that are experiencing stigma related to COVID-19 include:
  - People of Asian descent
  - People returning from travel
  - Health care workers and emergency responders
  - People with the virus and their family and friends
  - People released from quarantine/self-isolation
- **What happens to groups that are stigmatized?**
  - They may be excluded or shunned in social situations
  - They may be denied job and educational opportunities
  - They may be denied access to adequate housing and health care
  - They may be targets of verbal, emotional and physical abuse
- **What you can do to reduce COVID-19 stigma:**
  - Education is one way to fight stigma. It helps dispel harmful stereotypes. You can help reduce stigma by:
    - Getting the facts about COVID-19 from reputable sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO). Share them with your family and friends.

- Speaking up if you hear or see inaccurate statements about COVID-19 and certain people or groups.
- Reaching out to people who may feel stigmatized. Ask how you can help. Listen to them and show that you understand and support them.
- Showing support for health care workers and others who are caring for people with COVID-19. Thank them for their work and share positive messages on social media.
- Showing support for and thanking all who continue their essential jobs to help you and your community, such as police officers, bus drivers, grocery store clerks, food bank workers and delivery people.
- Remember, everyone is in this together. The COVID-19 pandemic will be over sooner if fears and rumours are replaced by facts, proper action and a show of support for one another.

### **Emergency Orders**

- The Ontario government is extending the state of emergency until June 2nd.
  - Without the state of emergency all associated emergency orders would expire.
  - The emergency orders are in place to provide critical public health measures that stop the spread of COVID-19 and have helped all of us flatten the curve.

### **Re-Opening Ontario:**

- This week, the province is moving towards reopening more retail environments, which means more people will be back to work and people who have been at home may be venturing out into the public. Although the curve is flattening, vigilance is still required.
- We need to be aware that there are still new cases happening, and people are still getting sick from this virus. What we're doing is working, but just because the government is easing restrictions on businesses doesn't mean that we can stop the everyday actions to protect ourselves and others.
- The majority of cases in our region are caused by community transmission of COVID-19, which means the virus is spreading in the community from person to person and is not linked to travel or a previously known case. This is not just a disease affecting the elderly, most of our cases are among adults between 35 and 64 years of age.

### ***Local***

- Child Youth and Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County [#HereToHelpSimcoeCounty video](#)
- [Northbound Lakeshore Drive, From Tiffin To Victoria Streets, To Become Temporary Right-Of-Way For Cyclists And Pedestrians Only.](#)
- [Dunlop Street becomes loading-only zone for now for curbside pickups.](#)
- [Barrie bylaw officers have charged 20 people with COVID-19-related offences, city says.](#)
- [Muskoka Mayors Sign Letter Urging An End To "Us Versus Them" Mentality Directed At Seasonal Residents.](#)
- [Swap parking space for patios? Barrie looks at innovative way to reopen restaurants and respect physical distancing.](#)
- [Barrie Landfill To Reopen To The Public May 14.](#)

### ***Provincial***

- [Ontario Retail Stores Open for Curbside Pickup and Delivery: Health and safety guidelines in place to protect workers and customers.](#)
- [Ontario Enables School Board Employees to Be Voluntarily Redeployed to Congregate Care Settings: Emergency order would help alleviate critical staffing shortages during COVID-19.](#)

- [Ontario Opening Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves: Access for Limited Recreational Activities at Ontario Parks Permitted While Maintaining Physical Distancing.](#)
- [School Boards Encouraged to Celebrate Student Achievement When it is Safe to Do So.](#)
- [Canada and Ontario Take Additional Steps to Protect Agri-Food Workers During COVID-19: Investment will help ensure the continued supply of healthy meat products.](#)
- [Ontario 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](#) additional support for Canadian seniors.
  - [Announced](#) additional support for businesses to help save Canadian jobs.
- [Statement](#) from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on COVID-19.
- [Indigenous Services Canada providing direct air transportation with strict, safety-first health protocol for essential personnel to serve fly-in First Nations communities and protect against COVID-19](#)

### **International**

- WHO
  - [Guidance on surveillance strategies](#) for COVID-19
  - [Guidance on contact tracing](#) in the context of COVID-19
  - Guidelines on COVID-19 [prevention measures for construction projects](#)
  - Launched an update to the [Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#)
  - Launched [checklist to support prison administrators and policy-makers](#)

### **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:**

- [Assessment Centres and Testing](#): the Barrie Assessment Centre's ([Barrie and Area Health](#)) hours have been updated as follows:
  - **Hours:**
    - Monday to Friday 8:00am – 6:00pm
    - Saturday / Sunday / Holidays 10:00am - 4:00pm
- [Parents and Parents-to-be](#) – changing to *Parenting during Uncertain Times*.
  - The following links have been added:
    - [6 Tips for Parents](#) (Unicef Canada)
    - [Talking with your children about COVID-19](#) (Video from Niagara Region)
    - [Supporting kids during COVID-19](#) (Kids Help Phone)
    - [Parenting during COVID-19](#) (Triple P)
    - [Local Resources for Parents](#) (New Path)
- [Partners and Essential Workplaces](#) added under [Employers of Temporary Foreign Farm Workers](#)
  - [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Employers of Temporary Foreign Farm Workers](#) highlights public health guidance and resources to support

employers of temporary foreign farm workers in Ontario to effectively respond to COVID-19 and protect these workers from becoming ill.

- The [Ontario Parent Survey](#) is being promoted via the website and SMDHU's social media accounts, and aims to help understand what Ontario families with children (aged newborn until 17 years old) are experiencing in the context of COVID-19, and what services families and caregivers may need.

### **Credible Sources of Information**

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