

Update for Partners

COVID-19

May 22, 2020

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Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of May 22, 2020 at 13:00)				
Total cases	New Cases since May 21st	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
443	3	328 +4	36 +0	8
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vast majority of cases have occurred in individuals in Simcoe County (96%). The median age of cases who have recovered is 49 years compared to the median age of 83 years among deceased cases. Almost 25% of local cases are associated with a local institutional outbreak. There are outbreaks in two long-term care facilities and one retirement home in our area. See the list of current institutional outbreaks for more details. <p>SMDHU COVID-19 HealthSTATS page and the COVID-19 Case Explorer.</p>				
Ontario COVID-19 Case Status (As of May 22, 2020 at 10:30)				
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
24,628	441 (1.8% increase)	18,767 (76.2%)	2,021 (8.2%)	961
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the last day, 28 people have died of COVID-19 in Ontario. 54.8% of the cases have been in people between the ages of 20 to 59 years, while 41.7% have been reported in those aged 60 years or older. A total of 588,958 test have been completed, with 5,516 currently being investigated. 12.8% of cases have been hospitalized and there are currently 153 people in ICU with 120 on ventilators. The 287 outbreaks reported in long-term care homes (no new outbreaks) from the previous report account for 25.7% of all cases and 62.6% of all deaths. The GTA represents almost 63.9% of cases in Ontario. <p>Province of Ontario website</p>				

Canada COVID-19 Case Status (As of May 22, 2020 at 11:00)			
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths
81,765	1,210	41,986 (51%)	6,180 (7.5%)
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New cases continue to be reported across the country, however with a decreasing trend in daily reported cases observed. • The majority of cases (86%) and deaths (94%) continue to be reported from Quebec and Ontario. • In the past week: No new cases have been reported in five jurisdictions (Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut). • In the past 24 hours: Nova Scotia and New Brunswick each reported one new case. • In the past 24 hours: Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, BC and Nova Scotia have reported new deaths. • A total of 1,394,184 tests have been completed. Government of Canada website and Canadian Epidemiologic Summary			
Global Situation (As of 09:06 CEST May 22, 2020)			
Confirmed Cases	New Cases	Confirmed Deaths	
4,962,707	103,211	326,459	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest number of reported COVID-19 cases in the world: United States, Russia, Brazil, United Kingdom and Spain. • Highest number of COVID-19 deaths in the world: United States, United Kingdom, Italy, France and Spain. WHO COVID-19 information dashboard ; daily WHO Situation Report			

Updates

- Dr. Gardner's media briefings and this Partner Update will be produced on Tuesdays and Fridays. 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

1. **Day camps** – The next stage of reopening could see day camps open in July and August. Work is underway on a guidance document for day camp providers to ensure best practices in infection prevention and other aspects of programming (e.g. safe water) will be in place if they do open.
2. **Masks** – Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) has strengthened his message about wearing cloth masks in situations where it is difficult to physically distance, for example public transit and small stores. Wearing a mask may become a requirement in some stores as businesses make decisions on their operations. Reminder that cloth masks protect other people from your droplets. Please go to our website for [more information about masking](#).
 - Be sure to wear your mask correctly covering the nose and mouth without gapping.
 - Don't take it off and on or you risk contaminating yourself by having your hands near your mouth, nose and eyes.
 - Don't put a mask on anyone under two years of age.
 - Wash after use.

3. **Testing** – The Premier is talking about moving ahead with additional testing but there has been no direction at this point. Since mid-April I have been encouraging anyone who has symptoms to do the self-assessment found on our website and if indicated go to a local assessment centre for testing. There is capacity at most assessment centres in Simcoe Muskoka to do the testing so I hope the message is clear to get tested if you have symptoms as identified on the [self-assessment tool or under symptoms on our website](#). The more testing that is done the better the picture we will have about this virus in our communities.

Local

- BWG Library hosts Wellness Wednesday videos and mental health activities. [article](#)
- Pandemic underlines the importance of local community gardens. [article](#)
- People experiencing homelessness use city buses during pandemic. [article](#)
- MP, councillor, business leader call on feds to give rent relief directly to tenants. [article](#)
- United Way funding services to aid local seniors. [article](#)
- Barrie City Hall urging transit riders to don a mask before hopping on board ([article](#)).
- Rural students in Parry Sound Muskoka need more support if they have to #learnfromhome: Funding for technology has not kept up with need ([article](#)).
- **Re-Opening Ontario:**
 - Sports fields, tennis courts, dog park opening in Midland: Playground equipment, washrooms and beaches remain closed ([article](#)).
 - Wasaga council eases sign restrictions for businesses ([article](#)).
 - City of Barrie reopens Tiffin Boat Launch, Bayview Drive dog park, Marina, boat launch and Bayfield basin transient boat docks will reopen on Friday. Beaches and outdoor playgrounds remain closed ([article](#)).
 - Local resorts under a cloud of uncertainty as summer nears ([article](#)).
 - Georgian Mall reopening, step-by-step, as regulations allow ([article](#)).
 - City Of Orillia to reopen some recreational amenities Thursday, including benches, tennis courts, and off-leash dog areas: users must continue to adhere to physical distancing guidelines ([article](#)).

Provincial

- The Province of Ontario:
 - [Announced new programs](#) to help people impacted by COVID-19 get back to work.
 - [Announced legislative changes](#) to allow corporations to operate virtually and electronically.
 - [Recommend face coverings](#) when physical distancing is a challenge and released specific recommendations on [how to choose, wear and care for appropriate face coverings](#) used in public where physical distancing is not possible, along with additional safety measures for provincial transit agencies.
 - [Announced](#) details about first phase of research project to fight COVID-19 focusing on vaccine development, diagnostics, drug trials and development, and social sciences.
 - [Announced reducing financial barriers to postsecondary education](#): student assistance applications open for 2020-21 School Year.
 - Revised CMOH Directive 3 to provide:
 - additional direction for hospital transfers to retirement/long-term care homes;
 - testing within 24 hours of new admissions and readmissions;
 - minimizing work locations of volunteers and contractors; and
 - sharing IPAC assessment results and reports

National

- The Government of Canada:
 - [Announced new online tool](#) to assist finding financial help during COVID-19.
 - [Provided update](#) on ongoing engagement with provincial and territorial governments to support businesses and protect workers from the impact of COVID-19.
 - [Announced support program](#) for large employers is open for applications.
 - [Announced additional support for Indigenous peoples](#) living in urban centres and off reserve.
 - [Announced](#) farmers to directly benefit from changes to Canada Emergency Business Account.

International

- WHO
 - Highlighted that addressing COVID-19 requires the protection of vulnerable groups by [addressing health, social and economic inequalities](#).
 - Delegates [adopted a landmark resolution](#) to bring the world together to fight the COVID-19 pandemic at the WHO World Health Assembly.

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:

- [Partners and Essential Workplaces](#), under the [Municipalities](#) expander bar, the following content was added:
 - **Public Health Guidance for the use of Public Washrooms**
Public washrooms are important facilities in our communities as the weather improves and public spaces are permitted for use by the public. Depending on where they are located, they can be busy. Therefore, precautions are needed given the risks of COVID-19. This [guidance document](#) outlines the protective measures that can be put in place for opening and safe use of public washrooms.
- [Reopening your Business Safely](#): a [Retail Stores](#) and [Public Pools](#) expander bar were added
- [Complaints about outdoor recreational amenities](#)
- [Declaration of Emergency and Closure Orders: Day Camps](#) expander bar

Credible Sources of Information

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