

## Update for Partners

### COVID-19

June 10 2020

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### Current Situation

<b>Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status</b> (As of June 10, 2020 at 13:00)			
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>Recovered</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Current Hospitalizations</b>
504	426 (84.5%)	36 (7.1%)	6
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47% of cases reported between June 1-7 had no known epidemiological link. Cumulatively, 40% of all cases are not epidemiologically-linked</li> <li>• Seniors 80 years or older have the highest incidence rate (196 new cases per 100,000 population) and the highest case fatality rate (36 deaths per 100 cases).</li> <li>• Approximately one-fifth (107 or 21%) of our 504 cases are associated with a local institutional outbreak.</li> <li>• To date, there has been a total of 11 institutional outbreaks in Simcoe Muskoka, seven of which involved resident cases.</li> <li>• There are currently two ongoing institutional outbreaks in Simcoe Muskoka. See the <a href="#">list of current institutional outbreaks</a> for more details.</li> <li>• As of June 9, 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The weekly incidence rate in Simcoe Muskoka remained stable compared to the previous week, with 21 new cases reported.</li> <li>○ SMDHU's current doubling time was 132.9 days in comparison to Ontario's (57.2 days). Based on SMDHU's current doubling time, we would expect to see ~996 cases by October 18, 2020.</li> <li>○ Cases were split between males (44%) and females (56%); 13% of cases were between 45 to 64 years.</li> <li>○ There were 11,987 total investigations in Simcoe Muskoka, 857 of which were ongoing cases or investigations.</li> <li>○ 58 (12%) of COVID-19 cases in SMDHU required hospitalization; 17 of which involved an ICU stay. 81% of those hospitalized had pre-existing conditions reported.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>SMDHU <a href="#">COVID-19 HealthSTATS page</a> and the <a href="#">COVID-19 Case Explorer</a>.</p>			

Ontario COVID-19 Case Status (As of June 10, 2020 at 10:30)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
31,341	25,380 (81%)	2,475 (7.9%)	580
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 44.9% of cases are male, 54.3% are female.</li><li>• 37.6% of cases are 60 years of age and older.</li><li>• The GTA represents 67.4% of cases in Ontario.</li><li>• 12.1% of people with COVID-19 have been hospitalized.</li><li>• There are currently 118 people in ICU with 86 on ventilators, both of which reflect a decrease since the last Partner Update on June 4, 2020.</li><li>• In the last day, 11 people have died of COVID-19 in Ontario.</li><li>• A total of 900,339 tests have been completed with 19,941 tests completed yesterday, 13,897 tests are currently being investigated.</li><li>• 312 outbreaks have been reported in long-term care homes, with no new outbreaks reported since yesterday.</li></ul> <p><a href="#">Province of Ontario website</a></p>			
Canada COVID-19 Case Status (As of June 9, 2020 at 20:01 EDT)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	
96,653	55,572 (58%)	7,897 (8 %)	
<p>Highlights as of June 9, 2020 at 20:00 EDT*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canada is still reporting new cases, but the numbers are decreasing.</li><li>• The majority of cases (87%) and deaths (95%) have been reported by Ontario and Quebec.</li><li>• The rate of total cases of COVID-19 in Canada was 257 per 100,000 population.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ No new cases were reported in six provinces or territories within the past 24 hours.</li></ul></li><li>• The rate of deaths from COVID-19 was 21 per 100,000 population.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ No new deaths have been reported in eight provinces or territories within the past 24 hours.</li></ul></li><li>• Over 1,955,719 people have been tested for COVID-19 in Canada, with 4.9% of all tests found to be positive.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ This equates to a rate of 52,029 people tested per 1,000,000 population.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>*The <a href="#">detailed epidemiology report</a> is now updated weekly on Thursdays, with higher-level <a href="#">daily epidemiology updates</a> posted at 20:00 EDT.</i></p> <p><a href="#">Government of Canada website</a> and <a href="#">Canadian Epidemiologic Summary</a></p>			
Global Situation (As of 2:04pm CEST June 10, 2020)			
Confirmed Cases		Confirmed Deaths	
7,145,539		408,025	
<p>According to remarks from WHO’s Director-General on June 8, 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Although the situation in Europe is improving, globally it is worsening.</li><li>• On Sunday June 7, 2020, more than 136,000 cases were reported, the most in a single day so far.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Almost 75% of these cases came from 10 countries, mostly in the Americas and South Asia.</li></ul></li><li>• Most countries in the African region are still experiencing an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, with some reporting cases in new geographic areas, although most countries in the region have less than 1,000 cases.</li><li>• There is also an increasing number of cases in parts of Eastern Europe and central Asia.</li></ul> <p><a href="#">WHO COVID-19 Disease Dashboard</a>; daily <a href="#">WHO Situation Report</a></p>			

## Updates

- Dr. Gardner's Facebook live media briefing takes place on Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. Recordings are posted on [SMDHU Facebook page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#). This Partner Update is published once a week on Wednesdays.

### ***SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Key Messages***

- **Anti-racism protests during COVID** - Racism is an important public health issue that exists in our province and local communities. Systematic racism affects the health of racialized populations who can experience discrimination, higher rates of poverty, precarious and underemployment and systematic disadvantages within housing, education and public health systems. We are encouraged that many citizens in Simcoe and Muskoka are taking a stand to inspire change and to stop systematic racism as part of recent protests and events around the globe. Given the COVID-19 pandemic we strongly encourage anyone who participates to do so in the safest way possible to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. [Guidance](#) for reducing risk while participating in these events has been posted to our website for event organizers and participants, and also includes suggestions for alternative ways to participate, such as using social media and virtual protests.
- **Stage 2 reopening** - As announced by the Premier, Simcoe Muskoka was one of the many regions in Ontario cleared to reopen many businesses and community spaces as of Friday, June 12. There are provincial resources on our website to guide businesses by sector in reopening safely and to support municipalities in the safe reopening of public spaces.

The health unit has begun repatriating staff back to their departments including our public health inspectors who will be conducting priority inspection programming as public health restrictions decrease. We are anticipating a flurry of requests for inspections of public pools, spas and public beaches that require inspections prior to opening. As well, we are developing a risk-based approach in which response to calls, requests, complaints, and outbreaks will be prioritized. As such, operators will need to exercise patience given competing priorities with the COVID-19 response and operational responsibilities that are occurring at the same time. Please visit our website for additional supports.

Faith services can operate at 30% capacity – there is a need for more guidance on how to do this safely and we are working on this with the Province.

As per government regulation, the following settings do not require re-opening inspections by a Public Health Inspector prior to opening:

- Food premises
- Personal service settings
- Childcare settings
- Day camps
- Small drinking water systems
- Splash pads and wading pools

Guidance documents are now available or are being prepared that focus on infection control practises, use of masks, screens and physical distancing to support these settings.

- **Workplaces, the next COVID hotspots** - I have stated that workplaces will be the next area of concern for transmission of the virus. We've seen it occurring in the GTA and Niagara areas already with many work-related positive cases. We will be tracking these types of "clusters" to ensure we can swiftly intercept and break the chain of transmission. Employers can be part of the solution by putting precautions in place that include monitoring of employee health and reporting concerns to the health unit. We have now started to see indications of transmissions in Simcoe Muskoka and are investigating sites to determine whether it is workplace spread or community acquired in:

- Healthcare settings – we have three positive staff at RVH (who don't work with patients) and who have been wearing full protection. Working with the hospital to determine if this cluster is or isn't workplace related or coincidental community acquired. Unknown at this point.
- Agricultural settings
- Other large businesses

A webinar will be hosted sometime next week with the Economic Development office of County of Simcoe, along with the District of Muskoka to help businesses prepare safely to open. More information will be coming out on this shortly.

- **Socially distanced gatherings increase to 10** - Social gatherings can now include up to 10 people from five. But these groups must still maintain physical distancing of 2 metres from anyone not in their household. This means dinner parties in the dining room with the neighbours is not okay, but an outside gathering or camp fire (if allowed in your area) with seating spread two metres apart for 10 or fewer people is okay. It is not an expansion of your intimate bubble to 10 people. The recommendation remains to stay with intimate household members only at this point. You need to practise physical distancing from anyone not in your household and:

- Monitor your health for symptoms
- Wash hands and high touch areas frequently
- Wear a mask in settings where you can't maintain the distance such as busy or small stores and public areas.

This is all part of the process of learning to live with COVID-19 in the community while minimizing risks and the transmission of the virus. If you are experiencing any symptoms or are concerned you may have been exposed to someone with the virus, seek testing. Effective today, a secondary Barrie site for COVID assessment and testing will be operating at the Barrie & Community Family Medicine Clinic (Prince William Way location). All assessment locations and hours of operation are posted on our website.

- **Visitors from high risk areas** - The province is moving Simcoe Muskoka into Stage 2 of reopening and lifted the restrictions based on our low case rates and reduced risk of transmission. People have a right to come here. We have shifted and we must learn to live with the virus. We need to be able to share public locations safely to get outside and exercise. It is important for mental health to go out, get fresh air, green space and socialize. We need to learn to strike a balance and gain an understanding of lower and higher risks: that's all part of learning how to live with the virus. Businesses and operators need to take precautions and follow guidance to minimize risk – use signage, distancing, controlling numbers allowed at one time. People need to get out and enjoy outdoors but do so safely - wash hands frequently, wear a mask if you can't physically distance safely, monitor your health, don't go out when not well. Get tested if you have symptoms or think you have been exposed to an infected person.

### ***Local Media on Wednesday June 10, 2020***

- COVID-19 cancels Midhurst Autumnfest Fall Fair ([article](#))

- Loss of butter tart festival will hurt Midland's downtown merchants ([article](#))
- As things begin to reopen, health official warns "the workplace is a hotspot" ([article](#))
- Muskoka Lakes Township cancels summer swim program due to COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Orillia busy preparing to ease into Stage 2 reopening ([article](#))
- Orillia's farmers' markets still on hold; Coldwater set to open ([article](#))
- Health unit calling on feds to implement basic income guarantee beyond COVID-19 ([article](#))

### ***Provincial Updates since last Partner Update***

- Beaches and campsites to open at Ontario parks ([news release](#))
- Ontario unveils a plan to reopen postsecondary education ([news release](#))
- Ontario proposing temporary ban on commercial evictions due to negative impacts of COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Province reopening child care with strict protocols to keep kids and staff safe ([news release](#))
- COVID-19 cases are on the rise among young adults, but health experts aren't sure why ([article](#))
- Ontario permits more businesses and services to reopen in the coming days ([news release](#))
- Ontario extends emergency orders to support its reopening efforts ([news release](#))
- Guidance for Summer Day Camps has been posted on the Ministry's [website](#).
- Ontario will allow all short-term rentals to operate starting Friday ([article](#))

### ***National Updates since last Partner Update***

- Ottawa looks to give asylum seekers who work in health care permanent residency ([article](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on June 10, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Prime Minister's [remarks](#) updating Canadians on Canada's plan to mobilize industry to fight COVID-19
- Joint statement on the role of a sustainable ocean economy in a post-COVID-19 world ([statement](#))
- Prime Minister announces supports for Canadians with disabilities to address challenges from COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- COVID-19: CBSA reminds recreational boaters that now is not the time to be crossing the border for discretionary reasons ([news release](#))
- Statistics Canada reports a national increase of 290,000 jobs in May ([article](#))

### ***International Updates since last Partner Update***

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- On June 5, 2020 [announced](#) updated [guidance on the use of masks for the control of COVID-19](#) based on evolving evidence. The guidance provided updated advice on who should wear a mask, when it should be worn and of what it should be made. Further guidance for the public is available [here](#).
- Published [14 new community and risk engagement posters on parenting during the pandemic](#). Some of the topics include: [learning through play](#), [keeping calm and managing stress](#), [keeping children safe online](#), [family budgeting in times of financial stress](#), and [talking about COVID-19](#).
- Published [interim guidance](#) on considerations, opportunities and challenges of integrating digital tools into contact tracing methods.
- Regional Office for the Americas published recommendations on measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission among [indigenous populations, Afro-descendants, and other](#)

[ethnic groups](#). The recommendations focus on promoting hygiene, social distancing, and improving access to basic health services in these communities.

- Director-General Dr. Tedros indicated in his [June 8, 2020 remarks](#) that while it's encouraging that several countries around the world are seeing positive signs relative to COVID-19, the biggest threat in those countries now is complacency. Results from studies to see how much of the population has been exposed to the virus show that most people globally are still susceptible to infection. The WHO continues to urge active surveillance to ensure the virus does not rebound, especially as mass gatherings start to resume in some countries.

## 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/revised content:

- Updated [Reopening your Business Safely](#) to include information and links related to stage 2 reopening, including for information for [food operators](#), [personal service settings](#), and [recreational water facilities](#), as well as an Added expander bar for [licensed child care](#) and [information on risk mitigation](#).
- Updated information has been posted for [Barrie testing and assessment centres](#), including two new locations, as follows:
  - **Barrie & Community Family Medicine Clinics**  
Prince William Location only, 829 Big Bay Point Road. Shoppers Drug Mart Plaza  
*Hours:* Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. / Sat/Sun/Holidays 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Assessment & Testing. Booked appointments & walk in. Call ahead for an appointment (705) 722-1199 or visit [barriewalkinclinics.ca](http://barriewalkinclinics.ca)
  - **Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre**  
201 Georgian Drive – ATRIUM entrance (look for the three flagpoles)  
*Hours:* Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. / Sat/Sun/Holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Testing Only. Booked appointments & drive/walk in. Call ahead for an appointment at 705-797-3120.
- Under [Partners and Municipalities](#), a June 8, 2020 letter offering [Guidance on Anti-Racism Rallies and Safe Protesting to Protect Against COVID-19](#) was posted.

## Credible Sources of Information

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