

Update for Partners

COVID-19

July 2, 2020

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Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of July 2, 2020 at 13:00)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
602	508	36	4
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the Partner Update on June 24th, 25 new cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Simcoe Muskoka. <p>There are a total of 602 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka reported to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compared to the previous report on June 30th, this represents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase of three confirmed cases An increase of five recovered cases No increase in hospitalizations No new deaths <p>Case Characteristics and Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The median age of cases who have recovered is 48 years compared to the median age of 83 years among deceased cases. The rate of COVID-19 infections is highest among those that live in areas with greater ethnic diversity when compared to areas with lower ethnic diversity as measured by the Ontario Marginalization Index. For more information on the impact of COVID-19 infections in culturally diverse areas of Simcoe Muskoka see this report. <p>Local Outbreaks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately one-fifth (18%) of COVID-19 cases in Simcoe Muskoka have been associated with a local institutional outbreak. Unfortunately, residents of long-term care and retirement homes have been the hardest hit by COVID-19, with one-third of cases succumbing to the illness. See the list of current institutional outbreaks for more details. <p>Pandemic Trajectory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since mid-June, there has been a downward trend in the seven-day moving average of new COVID-19 cases in Simcoe Muskoka. 			

Testing

- There were 121 new COVID-19 tests per 10,000 population in Simcoe County and 114 tests per 10,000 population in Muskoka District for the most recent week. In comparison the provincial testing rate was 123.5 tests per 10,000 population.
- The percent positivity rate in Simcoe County is 0.2% and 0.3% in Muskoka District compared to the provincial percent positivity rate of 0.6%. A low percent positivity rate indicates the outbreak is under control, given more testing is finding a smaller and smaller proportion of positives.

SMDHU [COVID-19 HealthSTATS page](#) and the [COVID-19 Case Explorer](#).

Ontario COVID-19 Case Status (As of July 2, 2020 at 10:30)

Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
35,307	30,730 (86.9%)	2,680 (7.6%)	119

Highlights:
 There are a total of 35,370 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ontario reported to date. Compared to the previous day, this represents:

- An increase of 153 confirmed cases (percent change of 2.7%)
- An increase of 4 deaths (percent change of 0%)
- An increase of 204 resolved cases (percent change of 12.1%)

- There are currently 40 people in ICU with 26 on ventilators. Looking to previous Partner Updates, both have been trending downwards for more than a month.
- A total of 1,457,703 tests have been completed, with 24,322 tests completed in the previous day and 13,922 tests currently under investigation.

[Province of Ontario website](#).

Canada COVID-19 Case Status (As of June 30, 2020 at 19:00 EDT)

Total cases	Recovered	Deaths
104,204	67,594 (65%)	8,591 (8.2%)

Note: The National COVID-19 Epidemiology Summary is updated once per day in the evening at 7:00pm Eastern Time, **excluding July 1.**

Highlights as of June 30, 2020 at 19:00 EDT:

- No new cases were reported in six provinces or territories within the past 24 hours.
- No new deaths have been reported in 11 provinces or territories within the past 24 hours.
- Despite decreased case counts in Quebec and Ontario, these two provinces continue to drive the epidemic in Canada.
- 2,770,153 people have been tested for COVID-19 in Canada.
 - This equates to a rate of 73,695 people tested per 1,000,000 population.
 - Percent positivity (total) is 3.5%.

The [detailed epidemiology report](#) is now updated weekly on Thursdays, with higher-level [daily epidemiology updates](#) posted at 20:00 EDT. [Government of Canada website](#).

Global Situation (As of 12:08pm CEST July 2, 2020)

Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
10,514,028	512,311

- The Americas continue to have the highest number of confirmed cases (5,317,792), followed by Europe (2,728,059) and the Eastern Mediterranean (1,096,565).
 - The United States of America has reported 2,616,949 confirmed cases.

[WHO COVID-19 Disease Dashboard](#); daily [WHO Situation Report](#)

Updates

SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Key Messages from Tuesday June 30, 2020

- **Summary of changes to [HealthSTATS COVID-19 page](#):** The links to the case explorer remains at the top of the page along with the summary table. The remainder of the page is divided into four data sections that can be expanded and collapsed by clicking on the dark blue bars. The 'Case Characteristics and Status' section contains many of the data visualizations in the previous page (e.g. rates, outcome status, age distributions, etc.). This section also contains a new chart and a link to a technical report showing the relationship of COVID-19 infections and areas with higher and lower ethno-cultural diversity in Simcoe Muskoka. The 'Local Outbreaks' sections contains the same two tables as the previous version of the page. The 'Pandemic Trajectory' page contains several updated and new data visualizations, including new categories for the epi curve and cumulative case curve, the 7-day rolling average of new cases, weekly counts of community acquired cases compared with all cases, weekly counts of new hospitalizations and a new chart showing the rolling 7-day average of the effective reproductive number (Rt). The final new data section is 'COVID-19 Testing' containing two charts that show the weekly testing rate (per 10,000) and the weekly percent positivity. Both charts show Simcoe County and Muskoka District in comparison to Ontario overall. The rest of the page is similar to what was on the previous version – a section on available forecast modeling and section with technical notes and definitions.
- **Garage Sales:** Garage/yard sales are now allowed, however the limit on the number of people allowed at public gatherings and events also applies to garage/yard sales. Public gatherings and events, including garage sales, are currently limited to 10 people. Note that some Ontario municipalities have approved bylaws that may restrict garage or yard sales due to COVID-19. If you want to host a garage/yard sale, contact your local municipal office for more information.

Tips for managing or buying second-hand items during COVID-19:

- Avoid all close contact with people outside of our household and practice [physical distancing](#) (e.g. stay 2 metres (6 feet) away from others at all times). If you are organizing a yard sale at your home, limit gathering on the retail space (driveway, yard) to 10 people. Post signs to indicate the 10 person limit, have hand sanitizer available, and do not attend/host garage/yard sales if you have COVID-19, are unwell, or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- Remember to wear a non-medical mask or face covering when physical distancing is not possible. Make sure [it fits](#). Learn how to [wear it properly](#) and follow the [dos and don'ts](#).
- **Beaches:** Now that the summer weather is truly here, people are going to the beach. In Canada we wait a long time for beach weather, and this year, with the COVID-19 restrictions in place, there's an even bigger desire to get out, to go to our beautiful natural waters and enjoy ourselves. And they are especially popular with young people and families. However, we must still continue to practice all those public health measures meant to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:
 - Use the outdoor public spaces within your own community, when possible.

- If you are feeling ill or displaying [symptoms](#) (i.e. fever, cough, difficulty breathing, muscle aches, fatigue, headache, sore throat, and runny nose) or if you have come into contact with someone who has shown symptoms or has tested positive, you are not to visit the outdoor public space.
 - Read all posted signs including screening signs at all entrances and ensure everyone self-screens before entering the outdoor public space.
 - Maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from others at all times and especially while in places where people tend to congregate, such as parking lots, trailheads and scenic overlooks.
 - Avoid close contact with people outside your household, such as shaking hands, hugging, high-fives, or games involving shared items.
 - [Wash](#) or sanitize your hands as you arrive.
 - Don't share equipment such as balls, bicycles and helmets, etc. outside of one's household members.
 - If physical distancing is difficult to maintain in the outdoor space, consider wearing [a non-medical mask or face covering](#).
- **Masks:** The discussion around masks, specifically should they be made mandatory in all indoor spaces outside the home, continues to evolve. Masks can be mandated by the province, health units can mandate them, and municipalities can as well. A group of Canadian doctors and scientists is now calling for them to be mandatory. We have three public health units, Wellington Dufferin Guelph and Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington and Windsor-Essex, that have made masks mandatory and some municipalities are moving in that direction as well. At this time we continue to recommend wearing masks, and especially where you cannot be sure that you will be able maintain social distancing of at least two metres.
 - **Section 22:** We have identified, based on data available, that there is a high risk of spread of COVID-19 within agricultural farms in Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka. To protect the health of temporary farm workers, we issued a local Section 22 Class Order under the Health Protection and Promotion Act last Wednesday, June 24. This is something that was strongly recommended to Medical Officers of Health by Dr. David Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, in response to the increasing number of cases of COVID-19, and the ongoing challenge of managing outbreaks on farms. The Section 22 Class Order requires that all owners and operators of farms in the region who employ farm workers, including Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW), local workers and temporary help agency workers, take actions to protect their labour force. Under a Section 22, a medical officer of health may make an Order to a class of persons who reside in or are present in the geographic area served by the health unit to take, or to refrain from taking action specified in the Order in respect to a communicable disease. Some of the actions required by the section 22 include:
 - Conduct daily (at a minimum) active screening of all employees (permanent, temporary or contract) by asking a standard set of health questions at the start of their shifts and ensuring that anyone failing a COVID-19 screen is excluded from work and recommended for testing;

- Ensure that all employees, current or future, are exclusively working within one workplace. Individuals who are employed at more than one facility must immediately limit this to one premises;
- Ensure employees working on farms are assigned to the same team/work pod that is separated from other individuals and teams;
- Ensure that accurate and updated contact information for all employees is available to SMDHU within 24 hours of being asked to support COVID-19 case management and contact tracing requirements. You can find out more about the Section 22 on our [website](#).

Local Media on Thursday July 2, 2020

- 'People are going to miss it': How does loss of community events impact New Tecumseth business, residents? ([article](#))
- 'We can't stop what we're doing': COVID-19 has helped Collingwood church grow congregation ([article](#))
- Youth Centre helps local youth stay connected, celebrate milestones ([article](#))
- COVID tests nearly triple in June at Collingwood assessment centre ([article](#))
- Muskoka township council face business backlog as a result of COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Thousands of pilgrims won't be flocking to region this summer ([article](#))

Provincial Updates since the June 24th Partner Update

- Ontario provides additional funding to support municipalities and urban Indigenous community partners ([news release](#))
- Premier Ford praises Ontario spirit on Canada Day during COVID-19 pandemic ([statement](#))
- Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19 supports road and highway projects ([news release](#))
- Ontario celebrating Canada Day with free parks admission and extending free family fishing ([news release](#))
- Ontario encourages support of local small businesses ([news release](#))
- Ontario extends emergency orders to July 10 ([news release](#))
- Ontario marks Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day amidst COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Ontario providing additional support for seniors ([news release](#))
- Ontario confirms 257 new COVID-19 cases, the majority in Windsor-Essex ([article](#))
- Stage 3 of Ontario's COVID-19 reopening plan looms nearer ([article](#))

National Updates since the June 24th Partner Update

- Canada extends mandatory requirements under the Quarantine Act for anyone entering Canada ([news release](#))
- Statement from Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on July 1, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Prime Minister's remarks on ongoing COVID-19 updates on June 29, 2020 ([remarks](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on June 28, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on June 27, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Canada announces support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions ([news release](#))
- COVID-19: Global Affairs reminds Canadians to follow official travel advice ([news release](#))

- Prime Minister's remarks on measures in place to support Canadians during COVID-19 ([remarks](#))
- Hospital, ICU rates drop as severity of coronavirus cases lessen ([article](#))
- COVID-19 transmission 'largely under control' but relapses possible: Dr. Tam ([article](#))

International Updates since the June 24th Partner Update

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Published updated scientific brief entitled '[Smoking and COVID-19](#)' originally published on 26 May 2020.
- Published a [timeline](#) as a definitive record of significant WHO activities, starting on 31 December 2019. It replaces an [April version](#).
- Announced the [International Olympic Committee joins forces with WHO and the United Nations to fight COVID-19](#)
- Released a health advisory entitled [Preparedness for cyclones, tropical storms, tornadoes, floods and earthquakes during COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- Published an interim guidance document on [Infection prevention and control during health care when COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed](#)

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](#).
 - **HOURS:** Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday / Sunday / Holidays - 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](#)