

Update for Partners

COVID-19

May 6, 2020

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Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of May 6, 2020 at 13:00)				
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
344	16	175	24	7
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42.7% of the cases (147) have been in people between the ages of 35 to 64 years, while 32.2% (111) have been reported in those aged 65 years or older. 34% of cases (118) are community acquired, with 22% (77) acquired through close contact with another case. There are COVID-19 outbreaks in 3 long-term care and 4 retirement homes 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 6, 2020 at 10:30)				
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
18,722	412 (2.3% increase)	13,222 (70.6%)	1,429 (7.6%)	1,032
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 365,675 tests have been completed, with 8,790 being investigated. 12.2% of cases have been hospitalized. Currently there are 219 people in ICU and 174 on ventilators. There have been 223 outbreaks reported in long-term care homes. 43.8% of cases are in those 60 years of age or older. Females represent 57.3% of those infected with the virus. The GTA represents almost 60.6% of cases in Ontario. <p>Province of Ontario website</p>				
Canada COVID-19 Case Status (As of May 6, 2020 at 11:00)				
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deceased	
62,458	1,299	26,291 (43%) May 5th	4,111 (6.4%)	

Highlights:

- Canada ranks 12th in the highest number of cases and deaths of COVID-19 globally.
- No new cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Yukon, Northwest Territories or New Brunswick for at least 2 weeks.
- The rate of growth of COVID-19 cases decreased between April 11th to 25th, with a doubling time of 15 days.
- Outbreaks in long-term care and senior's home are driving recent epidemic growth in Quebec, Ontario and Nova Scotia and are responsible for 82% of the deaths in Canada.
- Of the cases with reported hospitalization data, 16% required hospitalization and 74% of those who were hospitalized reported one or more pre-existing conditions.
- 970,586 people have been tested for COVID-19.

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

Global Situation (As of 18:00 CEST May 6, 2020)		
Confirmed Cases	New Cases	Confirmed Deaths
3,588,235	82,900	247,503
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 215 countries, areas or territories have reported cases of COVID-19. • Over one-third of global cases are from the United States with more cases (over 1.1 million) and deaths (over 62,000) than any other country in the world. • Highest number of reported COVID-19 cases in the world: United States, Spain, Italy, United Kingdom and Germany. • Highest number of COVID-19 deaths in the world: United States, Italy, United Kingdom, Spain and France. 		

[WHO COVID-19 information dashboard](#); daily [WHO Situation Report](#)

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**Emergency orders extended**

- Provincial emergency orders that have been put in place to date under s.7.0.2 (4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, have been extended until May 19, 2020. This includes the closure of child care centres, outdoor amenities in parks and recreational areas, non-essential workplaces, public places and bars and restaurants, along with restrictions on social gatherings and the prohibition of price gouging.
- All publicly-funded schools will remain closed until at least May 31, 2020. Additionally, Ontario's provincial parks and conservation reserves will also be closed until May 31, 2020.

Cleaning and disinfecting safety

- As people have been following recommendations to clean and sanitize hard surfaces to help stop the spread of COVID there has been an increase in accidental poisonings due to mixing of cleaning solutions. This increase is due to factors such as:
 - More cleaning products in homes as people stock up in isolation.
 - More exposure to those products as people clean and disinfect their homes more often.
 - More time spent at home — including for children.

- The most common mistake people make is mixing bleach with vinegar or with a cleaning product that has ammonia in it, producing potentially deadly gases. Some wipes used to clean surfaces have ammonia in them so people should read labels carefully.
- To reduce the risk when cleaning hard surfaces you should take cleaning advice from reputable sources, such as [Health Canada's webpage](#) on how to create your own disinfectant using bleach.

Declaring outbreaks in long-term care, hospitals and group homes

- An outbreak is declared in a:
 - Long-term care/retirement home (LTCH) when any staff or resident tests positive for COVID-19. These are vulnerable populations, and without the infection prevention and control measures triggered by declaring an outbreak, one case can have harmful outcomes for those who live and work in the facility. The threshold is highest in LTCHs where we have been directed by the province to declare
 - Hospital or group home when we see evidence of transmission to patients/residents as the primary criteria. Secondly we look for evidence of transmission to staff.
- Given that the risk of community transmission has been highest in the last few weeks, if there is a staff member who tests positive, the hospital/group home is not automatically declared in outbreak. SMDHU asks that an institution conduct enhanced surveillance via more attentive symptom screening/ contact tracing and testing. Since there is more universal masking, the contacts should be less likely to have been transmitted to or transmitted the infection. This is all complicated by the fact that we are doing asymptomatic testing where the positive predictive value can decrease. In the event an outbreak is declared, the facility would be notified and measures put into place to prevent spread.

Local

- Barrie COVID assessment centre ramps up testing for patients in Barrie. [article](#)
- Honda plant in Alliston shifts production to help donate PPE to frontline workers. [article](#)
- Simcoe County District School Board cancels graduation ceremonies; year-end celebrations will look differently from what was originally planned. [article](#)
- First Muskoka retirement home has case of COVID-19. [article](#)
- Gravenhurst free delivery program extended. [article](#)
- Simcoe County changing some bus and landfill operations. [article](#)
- Community gardens:
 - [Alliston, Tottenham](#) gardens will operate differently this year due to coronavirus.
 - [Bradford](#) ready to operate.
 - [Barrie's](#) community garden prepares to open.
 - [South Georgian Bay's](#) blooms.
- Bracebridge issues total fire ban due to COVID-19: Fire ban issued to protect firefighters during pandemic. [article](#)
- City of Barrie will celebrate Canada Day virtually. [article](#)
- Join The Barrie Virtual Community Day On May 8th: A Full Day Of Live Virtual Entertainment. [article](#)

Provincial

- The Government of Ontario:
 - Announced that emergency orders that have been put in place to date, have been [extended until May 19th](#).

- [Announced](#) it will further ease restrictions on retail stores (pick-up and delivery only) and essential construction.
- Announced it would be [extending electricity rate relief](#) until May 31, 2020. Customers who pay time-of-use rates will continue to be billed at the off-peak price, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Announced it is [expanding virtual mental health services](#) through enhanced virtual and online programs which will be provided at no out-of-pocket cost to Ontarians.
- Announced it has [significantly increased testing and contact tracing](#) capacity, allowing health experts to identify cases of COVID-19 and support efforts to stop the spread of the virus in the community, long-term care homes and other congregate settings.
- Released/updated the following documents:
 - [Provincial Testing Guidance](#)
 - [Patient Screening Guidance](#)
 - [Reference document for Symptoms](#)
 - Home and Community Care Guidance Document
 - Guidance for Essential Workplace.
 - Residential Hospice Guidance Document directed at palliative and end-of-life care provided in residential hospice settings.
- [Ontario Funds Innovative Company to Help Fight COVID-19](#)

National

- The Prime Minister [announced](#) \$252 million in support for the agri-food industry.
- The Government of Canada:
 - Released a [statement](#) on protecting sexual and reproductive health and rights and promoting gender-responsiveness in the COVID-19 crisis

International

- Leaders from 40 countries came together through the online COVID-19 Global Response International Planning Event to raise over 7.4 billion Euros for COVID-19 research and development.
- [WHO daily reports](#) have been reformatted to improve accessibility for persons with visual impairment.
- [WHO weekly summary reports](#) are being produced which has global indicators for COVID-19 preparedness and response.

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:

- **COVID-19 Main Page-** [How to prepare diluted bleach for a solution to disinfect high-touch hard surfaces](#) was added under [How to shop Safely](#)
- **Added under [schools](#):** The health unit is currently experiencing a disruption to our everyday business due to our agency's response to COVID-19, as well as the

uncertainty of when students will be allowed back to school, therefore, we have decided to postpone Grade 7 immunizations that were scheduled for spring 2020. We know that immunizations are important to prevent disease transmission and outbreak, so we are putting plans in place for Grade 8 students who missed their vaccines in Grade 7 to catch-up in the 2020-2021 school year. Please remember that you can share your child's immunization record with us at

smdhu.org/immsonline

- The following information has been added/updated on our COVID-19 Health Care Provider portal page:
 - [How to self-isolate while working Recommendations for Health Care Workers](#)
 - [COVID-19 Patient Screening Guidance Document](#)
 - [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#)
 - [Universal Mask Use in Health Care Settings and Retirement Homes](#)
 - [COVID-19: Infection Prevention and Control Checklist for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes](#)
 - [Universal Mask Use in Health Care](#)
 - [Use of N95 filtering face respirators beyond the manufacturer-designated shelf life](#)
 - [Putting On and Taking Off Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
 - [Universal Mask Use in Health Care Settings and Retirement Homes](#)
 - [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Testing – PHO](#)
 - [Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#)
 - [COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update](#)
 - [Talking to Children About the Pandemic](#)
 - [Resources for Ontarians Experiencing Mental Health and Addictions Issues During the Pandemic](#)

Credible Sources of Information

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