

Update for Partners

COVID-19

May 19, 2020

[Current Situation](#)

[Updates](#)

[SMDHU Resources](#)

[Credible Sources of Information](#)

Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of May 19, 2020 at 13:00)				
Total cases	New Cases since May 15th	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
432	28	303 +40	34 +2	8

Highlights:

- The vast majority of cases have occurred in individuals in Simcoe County (95%)
- 43% have been in people between the ages of 35 to 64 years, while 31.3% have been reported in those aged 65 years or older.
- 8 people with COVID-19 are hospitalized, with 1 requiring intensive care.
- 24% of cases are associated with a local institutional outbreak.
- Seniors 80 years of age and older are most likely to get COVID-19 and most likely to die
- There are outbreaks in three long-term care facilities and one retirement home in our area. See the [list of current institutional outbreaks](#) for more details.

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

NEW: Updated HealthSTATS page launched today

- The page was updated to achieve the following purposes:
 - To better understand the pandemic's epidemiology at a local level.
 - To make it easier for people to understand the local situation.
 - To help address the types of media questions we frequently receive.
 - To more readily show positive outcomes. For example: the number and % of recovered cases today shows a total of 303 or 70% of all our cases.
 - To make the charts interactive: numbers are visible by hovering over the bars, and users can click on tabs to see the data change based on the selection.
 - To make it easy to see changes over time.
- The charts are interactive, numbers are visible by hovering over the bars. Users can click on tabs to see the change in data based on the selection. For example: select on 'Total', 'Sporadic' or 'Outbreak' to see the epidemic curve for these three groups of cases.
- It is easy to see changes over time. For example, users can select data by month to see the change in acquisition status. In March 2020, travel was the most common means of acquiring COVID-19. By May, most cases are community-acquired or outbreak-related.

- The page also includes additional data that was not available before, including:
 - Number of cases in ICU
 - Median age of cases by outcome. For example, see the change in median age of cases for those categorized as ‘sporadic’ (not associated with an outbreak) versus those hospitalized or deceased.
 - More details regarding local outbreaks – by type of facility, # of resident cases, # of staff cases, outbreak-specific epidemic curves, presentation of data by age groups.
- For correct interpretation, it is important to read the chart and table footnotes as well as the definitions included at the end of the page in the ‘Technical Notes’ section
- By the end of this week, the PHASE team plans to add updated modelling/projection information so stay tuned.

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

Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
23,384	427 (1.9% increase)	17,898 (76.5%)	1,919 (8.2%)	987

Highlights:

- In the last day 15 people have died of COVID-19 in Ontario.
- 56.9% of all COVID-19 cases have been in female individuals.
- 30.5% of the cases have been in people between the ages of 40 to 59 years, while 42.1% have been reported in those aged 60 years or older.
- A total of 559,794 test have been completed, with 2,294 currently being investigated.
- 12.9% of cases have been hospitalized.
- There are currently 167 people in ICU with 123 on ventilators.
- There have been 280 outbreaks reported in long-term care homes, an increase of 4 from the previous report
- 24.3% of all cases are related to long-term care homes (18.1% residents; 6.2% health care workers); while 58.3% of all deaths are related to long-term care homes (58.1% residents; 0.2% health care workers).
- The GTA represents almost 63.1% of cases in Ontario.

[Province of Ontario website](#)

Canada COVID-19 Case Status (As of May 19, 2020 at 11:00)

Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths
78,488	1,282	38,828 As of May 18	5,857

Highlights:

- New cases continue to be reported across the country, however with a decreasing trend in daily reported cases observed.
- The majority of cases (85%) and deaths (94%) continue to be reported from Quebec and Ontario.
- In the past week:
 - No new cases have been reported in six jurisdictions (Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut).
- In the past 24 hours:
 - Fewer than five cases have been reported in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia.
 - No new deaths were reported in 10 jurisdictions.
- A total of 1,331,173 tests have been completed.

Demographics

- 55% of cases are in female individuals
- 74% of cases reported one or more pre-existing conditions.

- 62% of cases are in people between 20-59 years of age and 36% of cases are in people 60 years and older.
- Individuals aged 60 and older account for 68% of hospital admissions, 63% of ICU admissions, and 96% of deaths.

Exposure:

- Since March 15, the majority of cases have been due to community transmission.

Symptoms

- The most common symptoms are cough (73%), headache (55%), weakness (54%), and fever (46%).

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

Global Situation (As of 16:05 CEST May 19, 2020)		
Confirmed Cases	New Cases	Confirmed Deaths
4,731,458	94,172	316,169
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 216 countries, areas or territories have reported cases of COVID-19. • Highest number of reported COVID-19 cases in the world: United States, Russia, United Kingdom, Brazil, and Spain. • Highest number of COVID-19 deaths in the world: United States, United Kingdom, Italy, France, and Spain. 		
<p>WHO COVID-19 information dashboard; daily WHO Situation Report</p>		

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

Re-Opening Ontario:

- First stage of Ontario reopening businesses begins today – this includes the re-opening of retail locations that have street-front entrances (with public health measures in place) and some outdoor recreational amenities (e.g. outdoor sports facilities and multi-use fields, off-leash dog areas, and outdoor picnic sites, benches and shelters in parks and recreational areas). Outdoor playgrounds, play structures and equipment, fitness equipment, public swimming pools, splash pads and similar outdoor water facilities remain closed.
- **Newly announced today**
 - Ontario's publically funded elementary and secondary schools (i.e. English Public, English Catholic, French Public, or French Catholic schools) will remain closed for the remainder of the school year.
 - All students who were on track to graduate from secondary school before the initial school closure order was made in March will be able to graduate, and all students will receive report cards.
 - Private schools will also remain closed until May 29, 2020 according to an emergency order made under the Declaration of Emergency.
 - Licensed child care centres and EarlyON programs will also remain closed while emergency childcare will continue to operate.
 - [Emergency child care](#) will continue to operate and provide support for health care and other frontline workers.

- A gradual reopening of child care is expected to begin when the province is ready to transition to Stage 2 based on public health criteria, which will include robust safety protocols.
- Day camps will also be able to operate in stage 2 under the same criteria with the guidance and approval of local Medical Officers of Health.

Use of Non-medical cloth masks

- This continues to be a source of many questions. The Public Health Agency of Canada is advising that wearing a non-medical cloth mask is an additional measure you can take to protect others around you, especially when you are unable to physically distance yourself.
- Wearing a non-medical mask in the community is not a mandatory requirement from the government, but a business could require one for you to enter their premise if they choose to do so.
- Masks are another way to prevent respiratory droplets from contaminating others or landing on surfaces. Similar to the recommendation not to cough into your hands (instead, cover your cough with tissues or sleeve), a mask can reduce the chance that others will come into contact with respiratory droplets.
- It is important to understand that non-medical masks have limitations and need to be used safely. We have more information on masks, proper use and how to make your own on our [COVID pages of our website](#)

Local

- Bradford stepping up for most vulnerable. ([article](#))
- Local businesses see quieter than normal long weekend in cottage country. ([article](#))
- Bracebridge defers tax penalties to help those impacted by COVID-19. ([article](#))
- Gratitude fairy drops love notes to Collingwood's frontline workers. ([article](#))
- Writing contest hosted by teen a great way to get creative for fun. ([article](#))
- Bradford farmer's market goes virtual. ([article](#))

Provincial

- The province of Ontario:
 - Announced an independent commission into long-term care. ([statement](#))
 - Announced schools will remain closed until September. At the same time, the government is planning the gradual reopening of child care, and the opening of summer day camps subject to the continuing progress in trends of public health indicators. ([news release](#))
 - Collaborates with Med-Tech Innovation Hub in the Fight Against COVID-19. ([news release](#))
 - Ministry of Health continues to work on the revision of Directive #2 and related requirements to support the gradual restoration of health services.
 - Has updated the COVID-19 Patient Screening Guidance to reflect the recent changes to both the case definition and the testing guidance.
 - Reminds businesses preparing to re-open for in person services to follow the hierarchy of controls to eliminate or reduce the risks of transmission, and to minimize their need for PPE. Health service providers and employers should be sourcing PPE through their regular supply chain and they remain responsible for sourcing and providing PPE to their frontline workers. PPE allocation from the provincial pandemic stockpile will continue, and PPE can be accessed, within available supply, on an emergency basis through the established escalation process.

National

- The Government of Canada:
 - Announced expansion of support for workers and small businesses. ([news release](#))
 - Announced support for over 500 women's shelter and sexual assault centres. ([news release](#))
 - Announced additional support for women entrepreneurs. ([news release](#))
 - Announced support for the Canadian Red Cross. ([news release](#))
 - Announced annual increase to the Canada Child Benefit. ([news release](#))
 - Extends the shutdown of the Canada/US border for 30 more days.
- Health Canada approves first clinical trial for potential COVID-19 vaccine. ([article](#))

International

- WHO
 - Published new scientific new scientific brief on "[Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children and adolescents with COVID-19](#)"
 - Published new guidance on "[Cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces in the context of COVID-19](#)", intended for healthcare professionals, public health professionals and health authorities that are developing and implementing cleaning and disinfection policies and standard operating procedures.
 - published a document on [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) about immunization in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Signed an [agreement](#) with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to work together to promote health through sport and physical activity.
 - Published a document to [provide an overview of public health and social measures](#), and to propose strategies to limit any possible harm resulting from these interventions.

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](#).

Credible Sources of Information

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