

## Update for Partners

### COVID-19

May 26, 2020

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### Current Situation

<b>Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status</b> (As of May 26, 2020 at 13:00)				
Total cases	New Cases since May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
457	+4	350 (77%)	36 (7.9%)	7
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new deaths have been reported in Simcoe Muskoka since May 20<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>Almost 25% of local cases are associated with a local institutional outbreak.</li> <li>The case incidence rate in Simcoe Muskoka (77.2 cases per 100,000 population) is lower than the provincial rate (174.9 cases per 100,000 population), with the Muskoka rate (27.8 cases per 100,000 population) significantly lower than the Simcoe rate (83.3 cases per 100,000 population).</li> <li>Seniors 80 years of age or older have the highest incidence rate (189 new cases per 100,000 population) and the highest case fatality rate (37 deaths per 100 cases).</li> <li>There have been a total of 10 institutional outbreaks in Simcoe Muskoka with continued outbreaks in one long-term care facility and one retirement home. See the <a href="#">list of current institutional outbreaks</a> for more details.</li> </ul> <p>SMDHU <a href="#">COVID-19 HealthSTATS page</a> and the <a href="#">COVID-19 Case Explorer</a>.</p>				
<b>Ontario COVID-19 Case Status</b> (As of May 26, 2020 at 10:30)				
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
26,191	+287	19,958 (76.2%)	2,123	848
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are currently 143 people in ICU with 113 on ventilators.</li> <li>12.6% of cases have been hospitalized.</li> <li>In the last day, 21 people have died of COVID-19 in Ontario.</li> <li>25% of cases and 63% of deaths in Ontario are related to residents and health care workers in long-term care.</li> <li>A total of 629,414 test have been completed, with 6,961 currently being investigated.</li> <li>There have been 297 outbreaks reported in long-term care homes, with about half still in active outbreak.</li> <li>The GTA represents almost 65.1% of cases in Ontario.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Province of Ontario website</a></p>				

Canada COVID-19 Case Status (As of May 26, 2020 at 11:01 EDT)			
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths
85,998	895	44,219 (52%) As of May 25 <sup>th</sup>	6,566 (7.6%)
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yesterday, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan reported new cases, however Quebec and Ontario were the only provinces/territories reporting new deaths.</li><li>• Although new cases continue to be reported, there is a decreasing trend in daily reported cases.</li><li>• The majority of cases (86%; Quebec: 55.7%, Ontario: 30.5%) and deaths (94% Quebec: 61.7%, Ontario: 32.6%) continue to be reported from Quebec and Ontario.</li><li>• A total of 1,500,557 tests have been completed with a test rate of 39,369 per million population.</li></ul> <p><a href="#">Government of Canada website</a> and <a href="#">Canadian Epidemiologic Summary</a></p>			
Global Situation (As of 09:20 CEST May 26, 2020)			
Confirmed Cases	New Cases	Confirmed Deaths	
5,370,375	100,684	344,454	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yesterday the countries with the most new cases were: U.S.A. (24,151), Brazil (16,508), Russia (8,946), India (6,977), and Peru (4,056).</li><li>• Global highest total number of cases: U.S.A., Brazil, Russia, United Kingdom, Spain</li><li>• Global highest total number of deaths: U.S.A., United Kingdom, Italy, France, Spain.</li></ul> <p><a href="#">WHO COVID-19 information dashboard</a>; daily <a href="#">WHO Situation Report</a></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**

### **1. Symptomatic and Non-symptomatic COVID-19 Testing**

Effective immediately, no Ontarian who is symptomatic or who is concerned they have been exposed to COVID-19 will be declined a test at an assessment centre (either through appointment or walk-in, as per the processes of each individual assessment centre). Details of schedules and how to get assessed at our local 7 centres is available on our [COVID-19 assessment centre page](#). The following COVID-19 testing is available in Ontario:

- Symptomatic testing: Anyone with at least [one symptom](#) of COVID-19, even those with only mild symptoms; and
- Asymptomatic risk-based testing: anyone concerned they have been exposed to COVID-19 including people who are contacts of or may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case **OR** anyone who is at risk of exposure through their employment including essential workers, for example healthcare workers, grocery store employees, food processing plants.

### **2. Addressing COVID-19 isolation fatigue**

There is a need to balance risks of contracting COVID-19 and the need to protect mental health and physical health and for people to have the freedom to get outdoors. Changes are needed to the outdoor environment to ensure protective measures can be followed by enhancing physical spaces for people in urban areas to get outside and still maintain distancing, more outdoor activities that allow for distancing (as the problem with crowding in Trinity Bellwoods Park in Toronto on Saturday showed).

People need to get out, need to find options to increase ways to do it safely. Changing our environment including better signage, opening car lanes to bikes or walkers to allow spacing are some ways to support this balance

### **Local**

- City Of Orillia extends COVID-19 community assistance and prevention measures: City will be cracking down on large gatherings occurring at the Kiwanis Skateboard Park ([article](#)).
- 'High demand' anticipated for small-business loans: Orillia CDC. Regional relief and recovery fund includes no-interest loans ([article](#)).
- Midland assessment centre expands COVID-19 testing. Testing is being made available to anyone who wants it ([article](#)).
- Employee at Bradford Walmart tests positive for COVID-19. The COVID-19 positive employee last worked at the store on May 16; Store has undergone a deep cleaning out of 'an abundance of caution' ([article](#)).
- Muskoka fund gets \$750K boost to help businesses left out of COVID-19 relief: District of Muskoka commits to \$750K loan toward local rural relief and recovery fund ([article](#)).
- **Re-Opening Simcoe & Muskoka:**
  - Barrie pushing for patios everywhere as restaurants look for ways of keeping patrons separate: new program allows ad hoc patios, and even liquor sales for those with licences ([article](#)).
  - Essa getting ready to reopen parks, sports fields, other outdoor recreational amenities. Libraries beginning to offer curbside pickup ([article](#)).
  - New Tecumseth re-opens dog park, tennis courts, other outdoor amenities. Options for curbside pick up at libraries also being explored ([article](#)).
  - Some of Innisfil's outdoor amenities to reopen Saturday (may 23) morning, including off-leash dog areas, picnic sites: splashpads, public washrooms, not open yet ([article](#)).
  - Dentists, optometrists and hair salons across Simcoe County preparing for 'new normal' ([article](#)).

### **Provincial**

- Immediate action taken to investigate worst hit long-term care homes. Canadian Armed Forces support helping to stabilize five long-term care homes ([news release](#)).
- [Directive #3](#) was updated for long-term care homes.
- [Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#) was updated. Highlights of changes include expanded guidance for in-person care for essential visits, testing and specimen collection, and occupational health and safety.
- The COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms was updated to include additional language around multisystem inflammatory vasculitis which may present in children.
- The Province issued updated direction on testing including symptomatic testing of anyone with one symptom and asymptomatic risk-based testing.
- Volunteers and small businesses step up to help those in need: More than 6,500 Ontarians offer to deliver food, run errands and connect with seniors and people with disabilities during COVID-19 ([news release](#)).
- Hospitals assume management of two long-term care homes: Temporary measures required to help contain COVID-19 outbreak ([news release](#)).
- A [memo](#) was sent from the provincial Command Table, outlining additional direction on the province's testing strategy.

### **National**

- The Government of Canada:

- [Announced](#) it is enhancing the Youth Employment and Skills Program to help create new positions for youth in the agriculture sector.
- [Announced](#) a hotline to provide small businesses in need with financial planning advice amid COVID-19. The hotline is a national, bilingual service operated by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Small business owners with pressing financial needs can call 1-866-989-1080 (toll-free) seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (ET). Business advisors (125 Chartered Professional Accountants) will be available to provide customized financial guidance to business owners.
- The Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance is now open for applications ([news release](#)).

## **International**

- WHO
  - Regional Office for the Americas held [Media Sensitization Sessions on COVID-19 Reporting](#) to increase journalists' understanding of the underlying issues relating to the pandemic and thus allow for more sensitive reporting.
  - Published interim guidance on [Controlling the spread of COVID-19 at ground crossings](#) advising countries to reduce the spread of COVID-19 resulting from travel, transportation, and trade on and around ground crossings
  - Published a [COVID-19 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework](#) listing the key public health and essential health services and systems indicators to monitor preparedness, response, and situations during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Supported the Smithsonian to launch a new rapid response guide called "[COVID-19! How can I protect myself and others?](#)" for young people 8-17 to help them understand the science and social science of COVID-19.
  - Hosts young people from around the Americas and experts from PAHO and UNICEF to talk about life as a young person during the COVID-19 pandemic every Wednesday, 3:00-4:00 EST. Check [here](#) for more information.

## **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:**
- [Assessment Centres and Testing](#) Testing is available for:
- All people with a least [one symptom](#) of COVID-19, even those with only mild symptoms.
  - People who do not have symptoms and who are concerned they have been exposed to COVID-19 including people who are contacts of or may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case.
  - People who do not have symptoms and who are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their employment, including essential workers (e.g. health care workers, grocery store employees, food processing plants).

### **Health Professional Portal:**

- Updated [Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#). Highlights of changes include expanded guidance for in-person care for essential visits, testing and specimen collection, and occupational health and safety.

- Updated the [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#) to include additional language around multisystem inflammatory vasculitis which may present in children.

**Credible Sources of Information**

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