

## Update for Partners

### COVID-19

May 29, 2020

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### Current Situation

<b>Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status</b> (As of May 29, 2020 at 13:00)				
Total cases	New Cases since May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
468	+8	373 (80%)	36 (8%)	8
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new deaths have been reported in 9 days (since May 20<sup>th</sup>).</li> <li>22% of local cases are associated with a local institutional outbreak.</li> <li>12% of all cases have been hospitalized.</li> <li>Individuals aged 45-64 account for the largest proportion of cases (31%)</li> <li>Seniors 80 years of age or older have the highest incidence rate (almost 193 cases per 100,000 population) and the highest case fatality rate (36 deaths per 100 cases).</li> <li>There have been a total of 10 institutional outbreaks in Simcoe Muskoka with one continued outbreak related to COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka. See the <a href="#">list of current institutional outbreaks</a> for more details.</li> <li>SMDHU <a href="#">COVID-19 HealthSTATS page</a> and the <a href="#">COVID-19 Case Explorer</a>.</li> </ul>				
<b>Ontario COVID-19 Case Status</b> (As of May 29, 2020 at 10:30)				
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
27,210	+344 (1.3% increase)	20,983 (77.1%)	2,230 (8.2%)	826
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the last day, 41 people have died of COVID-19 in Ontario.</li> <li>A total of 680,687 test have been completed, with 13,351 currently being investigated.</li> <li>There are currently 129 people in ICU with 100 on ventilators.</li> <li>12.5% of cases have been hospitalized.</li> <li>25% of cases and 63.5% of deaths in Ontario are related to residents and health care workers in long-term care.</li> <li>There have been 300 outbreaks reported in long-term care homes, with about half still in active outbreak.</li> <li>The GTA represents almost 65.8% of cases in Ontario.</li> </ul> <a href="#">Province of Ontario website</a>				

Canada COVID-19 Case Status (As of May 29, 2020 at 11:01 EDT)			
Total cases	New Cases	Recovered	Deaths
88,856	+954	46,478 (53%) As of May 28th	6,918 (7.7%) +119
<b>Highlights:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Although new cases continue to be reported, there also continues to be a decreasing trend in daily reported cases.</li><li>86% of cases (Quebec: 56%, Ontario: 30.5%) and 94% deaths (Quebec: 62%, Ontario: 32%) continue to be reported from Quebec and Ontario.</li><li>Yesterday, deaths were reported in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan and BC and new cases were reported in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, BC, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.</li><li>For the past 14 days, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, and Northwest Territories have not reported a new case. Nunavut has reported no cases.</li><li>A total of 1,593,453 tests have been completed with a test rate of approximately 41,482 people tested per million population.</li></ul> <a href="#">Government of Canada website</a> and <a href="#">Canadian Epidemiologic Summary</a>			
Global Situation (As of 12:31 CEST May 29, 2020)			
Confirmed Cases	New Cases	Confirmed Deaths	
5,701,337	104,917	357,688	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The countries with the most new cases today were: Brazil (20,599), U.S.A. (16,362), Russia (8,572), India (7,466), and Peru (6,154).</li><li>The countries with the most new deaths were: Brazil (1,086), U.S.A. (770), Mexico (463) (8,572), United Kingdom (377) and Russia (232).</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, Spain, France.</li></ul> <a href="#">WHO COVID-19 information dashboard</a> ; daily <a href="#">WHO Situation Report</a>			

## 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. Recovered cases, immunity and continuing to take precautions

- At this time more than 80% of cases in Simcoe Muskoka are now considered recovered. Research is being conducted to explore immunity in association with those who have been previously infected with COVID-19. The evidence is still being gathered so we don't have the answers yet.
- Since there continues to be community transmitted cases in our area and immunity research is still happening, it is very important we all continue to follow the recommendations to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and to protect yourself and others:
  - Maintain a physical distance from anyone outside your household.
  - Wash your hands frequently, especially before and after going into community settings.
  - Wear a non-medical mask when maintaining a physical distance from others can't be guaranteed. Wear the mask safely and avoid touching your face.
  - Go out and get exercise but take necessary precautions.

## **2. Re-opening of healthcare services**

- Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health announced this week that many health care service providers in our region can reopen (e.g. physiotherapists, chiropractors). While this is positive news, it is important for community members to know that each regulated health profession is waiting on guidance from their regulatory colleges on the safest way to open and provide care to their clients. This will mean that future visits to the dentist or massage therapist will look very different than before COVID-19.

## **3. Availability of testing has increased**

- With more people looking to go to one of the seven local assessment centres in our region for testing, it is important to know that centres operate differently. Check ahead before you attend your local assessment centre to know their hours and whether you can drop-in or if you need an appointment. [Our website provides all of these details for each assessment centre.](#) All are working to ensure infection control practices are in place to minimize risks to people coming in for tests and for the staff.

## **4. Local show returns**

- The local Rogers call-in show Our Health is returning and has moved to a live and online format. The show with Dr. Keith Rose provides a community perspective on a range of issues and features expert panelists on a number of health topics. You can find it on Rogers TV channel 53 and online. Next show is June 23, 7:30 p.m. and will speak to: **Community Mental Health and Addictions Support, now and into the future.** Response to the pandemic has made it difficult to get mental health services so this is a timely topic. A link to more information will be going up on our website.

### ***Local***

- Kempenfelt Community Players costumers sew PPE for frontline workers ([article](#))
- Collingwood's Great Northern Exhibition cancelled ([article](#))
- Bradford Community Church approved for drive-in worship services ([article](#))
- Barrie Colts eclipse 30,000 meals during pandemic ([article](#))
- Oro World's Fair cancelled for first time in 168 years ([article](#))

### ***Provincial***

- Ontario opens up COVID-19 testing across the province ([news release](#))
- Province announces email for questions or updates related to assessment centre information [COVIDAssessmentCentres@ontariohealth.ca](mailto:COVIDAssessmentCentres@ontariohealth.ca)
- Support for small business tenant and landlords now available ([news release](#))

### ***National***

- Prime Minister announces additional funding for health, economic, social supports for Indigenous peoples and communities ([news release](#))

## ***International***

- WHO
  - Published an [interim guidance on ethical considerations to guide the use of digital proximity tracking technologies](#) for COVID-19 contact tracing.
  - Published an [interim guidance on the clinical management of COVID-19](#). This guidance document is intended for clinicians caring for COVID-19 patients during all phases of their disease.
  - Regional Director for the Americas said [the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Region of the Americas must include chronic disease care](#), as 1 in 4 people are at increased risk of poor outcomes from COVID-19 due to underlying non-communicable diseases.
  - Published a [case-control protocol](#) for the assessment of risk factors for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in health workers. The primary objective of this study is to characterize and assess the risk factors for SARS-CoV-2 infection in health workers exposed to COVID-19 patients
  - Published a [scientific brief](#) investigating any association between smoking and an increased risk for COVID-19.
  - Updated elements of the COVID-19 Strategic Response and Preparedness Plan (SPRP) in consultation of all six regional offices. These elements are laid out in the [COVID-19 WHO Appeal](#).
  - Is using social media listening to get ahead of the infodemic by monitoring global English-language conversations on COVID-19 to detect signals of growing interest and public engagement with emerging narratives about COVID-19. They are used to anticipate what questions need answering or what myths need busting.

## **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](#)