

Update for Partners

COVID-19

June 19, 2020

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Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of June 19, 2020 at 13:00)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
553	452 (82%)	36 (6.5%)	6
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since Wednesday's Partner Update, there have been 27 new confirmed cases in Simcoe Muskoka, including 25 new cases reported since yesterday. • A total of 20 local cases are associated with confirmed workplace outbreaks. This includes two workplaces within Simcoe Muskoka and two workplace outbreaks in other jurisdictions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ This is an increase of nine workplace outbreak-related cases since Wednesday. • Of the remaining 18 new cases reported since Wednesday, the sources of infection are as follows: five close contacts; 12 community acquired; and one under investigation. • Two respiratory institutional outbreaks were declared over today in Simcoe Muskoka, with one currently on-going (with one staff person who has tested positive). See the list of current institutional outbreaks for more details. <p>COVID-19 HealthSTATS page and the COVID-19 Case Explorer.</p>			

Updates

SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Key Messages from Friday June 19, 2020

- **25 new cases in Simcoe Muskoka since Thursday June 18th** – a large number of new cases was reported in Simcoe Muskoka since yesterday. This is the highest single day increase in cases since the pandemic began. Twenty-three of the newly reported cases reside in Simcoe County and two in Muskoka. Nine cases are associated with an outbreak on a farm in Simcoe County, and the remainder are sporadic (i.e. not associated with that outbreak: 10 community acquired; five close contacts of a case, one undetermined). Eleven of these individuals were asymptomatic (i.e. have no symptoms). We may expect more positive test results among asymptomatic individuals as a result of increased testing requirements for

staff at workplaces and for those who wish to visit long-term care homes. Consideration has been given to whether the spike could be explained by a lag in the turnaround time for test results as testing has increased; however, this time has remained consistent.

This spike in cases has required SMDHU to redeploy staff who had been repatriated to their regular programs of work back to case and contact management, including increases to staff working over the weekend to facilitate outbreak management and to answer questions from the public.

This is yet another reminder of how important it is that we continue to stay the course to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as the province reopens. We must all continue to practise physical distancing, hand sanitization, and use of masks when 2 metres of physical distance cannot be maintained (e.g. small retail settings, public transit), and to self-isolate and seek assessment and testing if you develop symptoms.

- **Farm Outbreaks**- There are two COVID-19 outbreaks on farms in Simcoe County at this time. The first has a total of nine workers who have tested positive, one of whom is a temporary foreign worker living on the premises. The others lived off-site and it is unknown whether they are temporary foreign workers. The second outbreak has 15 confirmed cases at this time, nine of whom are temporary foreign workers and the status of the others is unknown. SMDHU has completed site assessments at both farms and requirements have been provided to prevent further spread and prevent future outbreaks.
- **Temporary Foreign Workers and Stigma**- In the case of outbreaks on farms in our area, infection has been locally acquired rather than originating in a worker's country of origin. It is important that temporary foreign workers not be stigmatized. These individuals must be treated with the respect and support they need.

SMDHU Resources

- 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](#).
 - **PLEASE NOTE:** On Friday June 19th, Health Connection's hours of operation will be extended to 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - **Regular Health Connection hours:** Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday / Sunday / Holidays - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- SMDHU [COVID-19 HealthSTATS page](#) and the [COVID-19 Case Explorer](#).
- [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](#)