

Update for Partners

COVID-19

July 8, 2020

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Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of July 8, 2020 at 13:00)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
606	540	36	3
<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the Partner Update on July 2nd, there have been 4 new cases of COVID-19, 32 recoveries, no deaths and one less hospitalization in Simcoe Muskoka. • Today there were no new cases, hospitalizations or deaths reported. <p>Case Characteristics and Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The median age of those who have recovered is 47 years compared to the median age of 83 years among those who have died. • The rate of COVID-19 infections is higher among those that live in areas with moderate and high ethnic diversity when compared to areas with lower ethnic diversity as measured by the Ontario Marginalization Index. <p>Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing rates were lower in the last week with 90.5 new COVID-19 tests per 10,000 population in Simcoe County and 78 tests per 10,000 population in Muskoka. This is in comparison with the provincial average of 116 tests per 10,000 population. • The percent positivity rate in Simcoe County is 0.3% and 0% in Muskoka District compared to the provincial percent positivity rate of 0.7%. A low percent positivity rate indicates the outbreak is under control, given more testing is finding a smaller and smaller proportion of positives. <p>Local Outbreaks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently one ongoing workplace outbreak. • Approximately one-fifth (18%) of COVID-19 cases in Simcoe Muskoka have been associated with a local institutional outbreak. <p>SMDHU COVID-19 HealthSTATS page and the COVID-19 Case Explorer</p>			

Ontario COVID-19 Case Status (As of July 8, 2020 at 10:30)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
36,178 + 871 since last report	31,805 +1,075 since last report	2,700 +20 since last report	123 + 4 since last report
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Today there are an additional 118 new cases (a 0.3% increase from yesterday) and 9 new deaths (a 0.3% increase from yesterday).• There are currently 35 people in ICU with 26 on ventilators.• A total of 4,452 people have been hospitalized (12.3%) with 965 needing intensive care (2.7%).• A total of 1,582,361 tests have been completed, with 22,832 tests completed in the previous day. Province of Ontario COVID-19 case data Public Health Ontario Data Tool			
Canada COVID-19 Case Status (As of July 8, 2020 at 19:00 EDT)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	
106,434 + 2,230 since last report	70,247 (66%) +2,653 since last report	8,737 (8.2%) +146 since last report	
Note: The National COVID-19 Epidemiology Summary is updated once per day in the evening at 7:00pm Eastern Time <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were 267 new cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.• New cases were reported in six of 13 provinces/territories within the past 24 hours.• Deaths were reported in four of 13 provinces/territories within the past 24 hours.• The majority of cases (87%) and deaths (95%) have been reported by Ontario and Quebec.• Over three million people have been tested representing a test rate of 81,282 per 1 million people.• Since May 1st, a decreasing rate of cases has been observed among all age groups, particularly among those over 80 years of age.• The highest incidence rate per age and sex is among younger age groups.• Ontario has the highest age-standardized incidence rate in Canada with 8.1 cases per 100,000 population. The weekly epidemiology report is now updated Thursdays, with higher-level daily epidemiology updates posted at 20:00 EDT on the Government of Canada website .			
Global Situation (As of 11:14am CEST July 8, 2020)			
Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths		
11,635,939	539,026		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There have been over 1.1 million additional cases and over 25,000 deaths worldwide in the last week.• July 4th marked the highest number of cases in a single day worldwide with 211,411 cases.• In the last week, the U.S.A., Brazil, India, South Africa and Russia had the highest number of cases and Brazil, Mexico, U.S.A, India and Peru had the highest number of deaths. WHO COVID-19 Disease Dashboard ; daily WHO Situation Report			

Updates

SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Key Messages from Tuesday July 7, 2020

Use of Face Coverings/Non-Medical Masks

- As we move through the stages of reopening of the economy there is an increased risk of resurgence of COVID-19 transmission in our communities. Therefore under the authority of the provincial Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) in an effort to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19 we are instructing all businesses, organizations and transit services to have a policy requiring people entering indoor public spaces to wear a face covering/mask. The instructions go into effect July 13th 12:01 a.m. ([Correspondence to Businesses and Organizations](#); [Letter to Municipalities and CAOs](#))
- Rationale for issuing the instructions:
 - We need to take precautions to reduce the risk of a resurgence of COVID-19 transmission in our communities. This resurgence has already been seen internationally.
 - Emerging evidence (ecological studies & modelling) suggests that COVID-19 transmission rates can be reduced with a high level of population compliance of non-medical mask use.
 - Simcoe Muskoka is experiencing a large and increasing number of visitors from parts of the province with higher incidence of COVID-19, with resultant crowding.
 - Voluntary compliance with mask use in indoor public places appears to be suboptimal.
 - High degree of support from community partners / physicians / hospitals / some businesses / municipal CAOs and politicians for SMDHU to require mask use in indoor public places.
 - Regulation within the EMCPA allowing for health unit and municipalities to enforce, although we are relying on promotion and public good will for success.
 - Additional information is available on the SMDHU website under [Wearing a face covering in all indoor public spaces](#) including an [FAQ - Wearing a face covering in all indoor spaces](#)

Local Media on Thursday July 3-8, 2020

- COVID costs absent from 2020/2021 Catholic school board budget ([article](#))
- Port Carling student launches PPE supply company during COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Limited in-person hearings resume Monday at Barrie courthouse ([article](#))
- County offering virtual panel for struggling local business owners ([article](#))
- Parry Sound – Muskoka receives \$27K for enhanced public transit cleaning ([article](#))
- BWG Library improves curbside pickup ([article](#))
- Town Hall to paint white circles at Innisfil Beach Park, make sure everyone keeps moving, to deter “lack of respect for physical distancing” ([article](#))
- District of Muskoka calls special meeting to address mandatory masks ([article](#))
- Clearview Youth Centre offering summer activity kits ([article](#))
- Youth Centre helps local youth stay connected, celebrate milestones ([article](#))
- COVID tests nearly triple in June at Collingwood assessment centre ([article](#))
- Muskoka township council face business backlog as a result of COVID-19 ([article](#))
- City Hall tightening restrictions on Barrie beach to combat crowding ([article](#))
- Big beach crowds prompt three tickets at Orillia’s parks ([article](#))
- It’s a pandemic issue’: Innisfil residents share concerns about beach crowds ([article](#))
- Wasaga Beach to close main beach area, limit parking to control COVID-19 ([article](#))

Provincial Updates since the July 2nd Partner Update

- Ontario makes it easier for truck drivers to get tested for COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Ontario introduces legislation to protect public health as economy reopens ([news release](#))
- Government proposes Made-in-Ontario plan for growth, renewal and economic recovery ([news release](#))
- Ontario reveals new picture of how COVID-19 has hit cities, regions ([article](#))
- Ontario launches online training to promote safe workplaces ([news release](#))
- Ontario supporting restaurants as province safely reopens ([news release](#))
- Canadian Armed Forces depart Ontario long-term care homes ([news release](#))
- Ontario provides additional funding to support municipalities and urban Indigenous community partners ([news release](#))
- Premier Ford praises Ontario spirit on Canada Day during COVID-19 pandemic ([statement](#))
- Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19 supports road and highway projects ([news release](#))
- Ontario celebrating Canada Day with free parks admission and extending free family fishing ([news release](#))
- Ontario encourages support of local small businesses ([news release](#))
- Ontario marks Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day amidst COVID-19 ([news release](#))

National Updates since the July 2nd Partner Update

- Service Canada begins the gradual and safe reopening of in-person locations across the country ([news release](#))
- Final component of phase 2 of the COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations announced ([news release](#))
- Update on COVID-19 in Indigenous communities ([news release](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on July 7, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on July 6, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on July 5, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Canadian seniors to receive one time tax-free payment this week ([news release](#))
- Prime Minister's remarks on measures taken to help Canadians during COVID-19 pandemic ([remarks](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on July 4, 2020 ([statement](#))
- COVID-19: Additional temporary service reductions at select Canadian ports of entry ([news release](#))
- Canada extends mandatory requirements under the Quarantine Act for anyone entering Canada ([news release](#))

International Updates since the July 2nd Partner Update

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Held a webinar on the [chemical impact of using disinfectants, hand sanitizers](#), and personal protective equipment also outlining recommendations to ensure the safety of chemical products being used to stop the spreading of the virus.
- Regional Director for the Western Pacific, spoke of [a 'new normal', one that improves both health and livelihoods](#) during a virtual press conference with the World Economic Forum on COVID-19. He added "This 'new future' is the dividend of COVID-19 which WHO hopes for."

- Is holding an [infodemic public webinar](#) July 21, to present findings of global discussions and interventions. The [program](#), [graphic summaries](#) of talks and some of the [global infodemic talks](#) are also available online.
- PAHO (Pan American Health Organization) Director, said countries planning to relax public health measures [must take a phased approach based on local conditions and be prepared to impose preventive measures again if the epidemiological situation changes.](#)
- Released a new [online course on controlling the spread of COVID-19 at ground crossings](#) based on related [interim guidance](#) and [handbook](#).
- PAHO has released a [report that presents an overview of PAHO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)

SMDHU Resources

- 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](#).
- **Updates/revisions to SMDHU webpages:**
 - New expander bar [Wearing a face covering in all indoor public spaces](#)
 - [Assessment Centres and Testing \(Alliston hours changed; instructions for getting test results in Muskoka were revised\)](#)
 - [Reopening your Business Safely](#)
 - **Added** new information about [Instructions to Persons Responsible for a Business or Organization Permitted to Open under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990* and related Regulations](#)
 - [FAQ's Recreational Water Facilities](#)
 - [Businesses that provide staff housing](#)
 - [Restaurant reopening protocols](#)
- 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](#).
 - **HOURS:** Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday / Sunday / Holidays - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Credible Sources of Information

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