

Update for Partners

COVID-19

July 15, 2020

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Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of July 15, 2020 at 13:00)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
616 +10 since last report	560 +20 since last report	36 No change since last report	4 +1 since last update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simcoe Muskoka has seen a decrease in COVID-19 case counts for the last four consecutive weeks. In the last day there has been one additional person who has tested positive for COVID-19. There have been no deaths for almost two months. There are currently 19 known active cases of COVID-19 (self-isolating/hospitalized) in Simcoe Muskoka (note: of the total cases, two have unknown results). Most people who have acquired COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka are from the Barrie and South Simcoe areas, including two large outbreaks in long-term care homes (which are now over). 91% of people who had COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka have recovered. The rate of COVID-19 infections is highest among those that live in areas with greater ethnic diversity when compared to areas with lower ethnic diversity as measured by the Ontario Marginalization Index. There are currently no ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks in our region. Of cases reported in July, 28% are community acquired and 33% are from close contacts. There were 98 new COVID-19 tests per 10,000 population in Simcoe County and 79 tests per 10,000 population in Muskoka District for the most recent week of reporting. In comparison the provincial testing rate was 112 tests per 10,000 population. The percent positivity rate in Simcoe County is 0.1% and 0.4% in the District of Muskoka compared to the provincial percent positivity rate of 0.6%. A low percent positivity rate indicates the outbreak is under control, given more testing is finding a smaller and smaller proportion of positives. 			
SMDHU COVID-19 HealthSTATS page and the COVID-19 Case Explorer			

Ontario COVID-19 Case Status (As of July 15, 2020 at 10:30)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
37,052 +874 since last report	32,920 +1,115 since last report	2,732 +32 since last report	115 -8 since last report
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none">In the last day, there were 102 new cases (+0.3% increase from yesterday), nine deaths and 135 recovered cases reported.There are currently 1,454 known active cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. Of these active cases almost 50% of them are in people under the age of 50.Of these active cases, 115 people are currently hospitalized, with 31 people in ICU and 22 on ventilators.A total of 1,752,828 tests have been completed with 23,769 tests completed yesterday and 22,029 tests under investigation.There are 196 active outbreaks in Ontario (including hospitals, long-term care and retirement homes, group homes, correctional facilities, shelters, child care centres, and workplaces) For more provincial data see Province of Ontario COVID-19 case data and Public Health Ontario Data Tool			
Canada COVID-19 Case Status (As of July 15, 2020 at 19:00 EDT)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	
108,829 +2,395 since last report	72,485 +2,238 since last report	8,810 +73 since last report	
Note: National numbers are current as of 7 p.m. yesterday. <ul style="list-style-type: none">There were 343 new cases of COVID-19 and twelve new COVID-19 related deaths reported in Canada yesterday.New cases of COVID-19 were reported in eight of 13 provinces/territories yesterday.Yesterday, the majority of new cases and all new deaths are in Ontario and Quebec.The number of new cases in Canada continues to decrease with a decreasing rate of cases across all age groups since May 24.From July 1-7 there was a 13% decrease in the number of cases compared to the previous week.Alberta, Nova Scotia, and P.E.I. reported increases in the number of new cases from July 1-7, with P.E.I. reporting five new cases after reporting no new cases since April 28.Of all tests for COVID-19, 3% have been positive. National weekly epidemiology report ; National daily epidemiology updates			
Global Situation (As of July 16, 2020 at 11:04 CEST)			
Confirmed Cases		Confirmed Deaths	
13,338,364 +1,702,425 change since last report		579,319 +42,791 change since last report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Globally, the highest number of cases were reported since the beginning of the pandemic during four days in the past week (July 10-13) with global case counts continuing to increase weekly. Weekly global deaths have plateaued since May 4.July 12th marked the highest number of cases in a single day worldwide with over 230,000 cases.Yesterday there were 185,836 new cases and 4,176 deaths around the world, with the highest case counts in the U.S., Brazil, India, South Africa and Mexico and the highest number of deaths in Brazil, Mexico, the U.S., India and Iran.The U.S. continues to be the global epicenter of weekly and daily cases.Globally, 25 countries/territories have reported no new cases in the last week. WHO COVID-19 Disease Dashboard ; daily WHO Situation Report			

Updates

SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Key Messages from Monday July 13, 2020

Masks/Face Coverings

- As of Monday July 13, 2020, when you enter into an indoor public space (e.g. grocery store, community centre, shopping mall, hair salon, library, place of worship, etc.), or use a public transit service in Simcoe Muskoka, you will be required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering.
- We would like to express our gratitude to businesses and the public for your willingness to accept the public health measures to protect the public's health. We understand there has been a lot asked of you in a short amount of time during what is a time of great transition and change.
- Last week, SMDHU's Health Connection received 1,069 COVID related inquiries and the vast majority were related to mandatory masking. Inquiries included businesses asking for clarification as to whether they are included in the instruction, complaints both for and against the use of face coverings, requests for evidence (why, why now), clarifications for multi-unit dwellings and inquiries about why schools are excluded.
 - SMDHU's current instruction regarding masks is aimed at indoor public spaces where business and organizations interact with customers/clients.
 - How schools will function in the fall is under the purview of the Ministry of Education who is working with the Ontario Ministry of Health on infection, prevention and control, the use of masks/face coverings and school transportation.
 - Why face coverings now? We are at a good place with our local situation. We want to protect our local residents and visitors and the gains we have achieved and worked hard for as we continue to open up our businesses and public places. We don't want to see a resurgence of COVID-19, as we have seen happen in other jurisdictions and countries. The use of face coverings is important to protect employees who work in public settings as they open up. Everyone needs to be able to work in a place of safety, where they feel comfortable. Introducing the use of face coverings also prepares us for what may come in the fall with a second wave, as we will be in the habit of further protecting ourselves and those around us.
 - We have several new resources that are posted to our website to help businesses and the general public understand the requirements of wearing a face covering in all indoor public spaces, including a guideline for businesses, a sample policy, sample public signage, as well as frequently asked questions for both the business community as well as the public. As always our Health Connection line is open to answer your questions.

COVID-19 World Record

- July 12, a daily world record was set for COVID-19 cases (230,370), and in the U.S. Florida set a record for the largest single-day increase in positive cases in any state (more than 15,000). This is a reminder that we cannot be complacent, we must continue to work together to keep cases under control, which includes maintaining that 2 metre distance from one another, practicing good hand hygiene and wearing a mask.

Stage 3 Reopening:

- Premier Ford made an announcement regarding Stage 3 reopening. We will be updating all of our online guidance documents and materials to reflect what's included in this announcement.

- The shift into Stage 3 and the easing of restrictions is good news for us but we all need to remember that while we have come a long way, and worked hard to get here, we continue to live with COVID-19 and as such while we live our lives and enjoy ourselves we must continue to protect ourselves and others by physical distancing, practicing hand hygiene and wearing a mask in all indoor public places.

Local Media July 9-15, 2020

- 'Is this a prison or a health-care facility?' Collingwood man concerned about wife's deterioration without visits. ([article](#))
- Casino Rama will not be reopening Friday. ([article](#))
- Bradford-West Gwillimbury to reopen some municipal services as of July 20. ([article](#))
- Assessment centre continues to see dozens for testing. ([article](#))
- City's new-look summer camp helps kids find fun amid pandemic ([article](#))
- 'People are going to have to get used to it': mask rules welcome. ([article](#))
- 'People need companionship:' Collingwood humane society offers vet services to pet owners in need. ([article](#))
- County offering supports for local businesses amid pandemic. ([article](#))
- Mandatory masks divide Muskoka businesses during COVID-19 recovery. ([article](#))
- North Simcoe mayors in agreement with health unit's mask mandate. ([article](#))
- 'See you on the Patio' program starts Friday in downtown Orillia. ([article](#))

Provincial Updates since the July 8th Partner Update

The Government of Ontario:

- Announced the acceleration of the development of long-term care homes. ([news release](#))
- [Announced](#) it is providing Cambridge-based Eclipse Innovations Inc. with \$1,408,475 from the Ontario Together Fund to scale up its operations to manufacture made-in-Ontario N95 masks.
- [Announced](#) nearly all businesses and public spaces will reopen in Stage 3 of the province's reopening framework with public health and workplace safety measures and restrictions in place. Decisions on which regions will enter Stage 3 are made in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts based on trends of key public health indicators.
- Announced new visitation requirements in [retirement](#) and [long term care](#) homes.
 - **Retirement homes** Non-essential visitors no longer need to attest they have tested negative for COVID-19 within the previous 2 weeks and subsequently not tested positive. This applies to all visits (outdoor, indoor and in-suite). Non-essential visitors must continue to be screened. Outdoor visits require the visitor to use a face covering at all times. Indoor visits require the use of a surgical/procedure mask by the visitor. If a visitor does not bring their own mask, they cannot visit.
 - **Long term care homes** Up to two visitors are allowed at a time for **outdoor visits** starting immediately and attestation of testing is not required for these visits. Starting July 22nd for **indoor visits**, visitors are required to verbally attest to home staff that they have tested negative for COVID-19 within the previous two weeks and not subsequently tested positive. The home is not responsible for providing the testing. Up to two visitors are allowed at a time for indoor visits.
- Announced investments in more accessible public transit infrastructure for Barrie in collaboration with the Federal Government. ([news release](#))
- Announced increased employment and introduced the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act to support growth, renewal and economic recovery. ([news release](#))

- Launched the 'Ontario Made' program from Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters including the [SupportOntarioMade.ca](#) website. ([news release](#))
- In collaboration with the Federal Government have enhanced farmers' insurance protection which now includes labour shortages due to COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Announced they will be expanding access to reliable broadband and cellular service in the province. Any areas across Ontario that do not meet the national standards for broadband speeds would be eligible for provincial funding. ([news release](#))

National Updates since the July 8th Partner Update

- Measures to support international students during the COVID-19 pandemic were released. ([backgrounder](#))
- Human clinical trials begin for Quebec-made coronavirus vaccine. ([article](#))
- Roughly 13,000 health care workers file workplace injury claims tied to COVID-19. ([article](#))
- B.C.'s \$10-million quarantine program seen as model for how to treat migrant workers. ([article](#))
- Vast COVID-19 disparity a problem for Canada-U.S. travel, says Njoo. ([video](#))
- Canada adds health official at U.S. border crossing to screen for COVID-19. ([article](#))
- Coronavirus: Wage subsidy to be extended to December, Trudeau says. ([article](#))
- In Canada, the cases of COVID-19 and deaths are declining. Here's the story behind the numbers. ([article](#))
- Prime Minister's remarks on COVID-19, the economy, and strategies to fight racism. ([remarks](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on July 9, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Historic COVID-19 plan provide Canadians with the support they need to get through the economic crisis. ([news release](#))
- Economic and fiscal snapshot 2020 – House speech. ([speech](#))
- Canada not ready for a second wave of COVID-19, Senate committee says. ([article](#))
- Canada's hardest-hit nursing homes lost 40% of residents in just 3 months of the pandemic. ([article](#))
- Following a [cluster in Prince Edward Island](#) related to a traveler from the U.S., Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has [deployed health officials to major border crossings](#) to support COVID-19 screening.
- Amid fears of community spread as bar patrons cut loose, [Quebec bans dancing in bars](#). As part of evolving restrictions for regions [moving into Stage 3](#), Ontario also declares "You won't get any dancing here, it's illegal".

International Updates since the July 8th Partner Update

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Updated its [Q&A page](#) to include information on schools and COVID-19.
- Updated the risk assessment tools for [mass gatherings](#), [religious gatherings](#), and [mass gatherings during sporting events](#).
- [Announced the establishment of the Independent panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response](#) to evaluate the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Launched the access initiative for quitting tobacco as individuals who smoke are more vulnerable to developing a severe case of COVID-19. The initiative enlists the help of the world's [first ever virtual health worker, Florence](#), who you can speak to discuss COVID-19 and smoking and develop a personalized plan to quit tobacco.
- Updated the scientific brief on transmission of COVID-19 (key points on p.2 of [daily situation update](#), [full scientific brief](#), [Q&A](#))
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has been holding webinars on a range of issues related to COVID-19. See [here](#) for previous and upcoming webinars.

- [Is in Wuhan to identify the zoonotic source of COVID-19](#)
- PAHO [has called for strong coordination across countries, evidence to guide leaders' actions and for people to protect themselves and others.](#)

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 in Simcoe Muskoka.
- Current COVID-19 information is available on our [website](#).
Please note we are working to update all guidance documents to reflect the new face covering instructions and the shift into Stage 3 of reopening. Please continue to check our website for new and revised resources providing information on these changes.
New: [Wearing a face covering in all indoor public spaces](#)

[Reopening and Operating your Business Safely](#)

- **Revised** [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](#)
- **Revised** [Reopening and Operating your Business Safely](#)
- **New Signage** – [STOP You must wear your face covering at this site](#)
- **New:** [Guidance on Face Covering Instructions for Businesses and Organizations](#)
- **New:** [FAQ's – What Businesses Need to Know](#)
- **Revised:** [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Day Camps](#)
- **Revised:** [FAQ's – Wearing a Face Covering in Indoor Public Spaces](#)
- **Revised:** [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Employers of Temporary Foreign Farm Workers](#)

[Partners and Municipalities](#)

- **Revised** 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](#)

[Assessment Centres and Testing](#)

- **Revised:**
 - Barrie COVID-19 Assessment Centre has **New Hours:** Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. closed on weekends.
 - **Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre - Clinic C Drive-Thru only**
NEW Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Testing Only. Booked appointments & drive/walk in. **New:** Contact Information: For an appointment call 705-728-9090 extension 49910
- 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.; Weekends/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](#)