

Update for Partners

COVID-19

July 29, 2020

[Current Situation](#)

[Updates](#)

[SMDHU Resources](#)

[Credible Sources of Information](#)

Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of July 29, 2020 at 13:00)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
655 + 3 since yesterday +16 since last report	593 +4 since yesterday +27 since last report	36 No change since last report	3 -1 since last report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locally, there are currently 24 people known to have an active case of COVID-19; approximately half of all active cases are among those under the age of 35. 59% of cases reported locally have no known epidemiological link, with the cumulative rate with no epidemiological link at 31%. There is currently one active COVID-19 outbreak in a local retirement home, with positive tests in one staff member and one resident. Since the pandemic began, 94% of those with positive COVID-19 tests are contacted within one day of being reported to public health. Simulations show that public health measures and collective efforts have potentially averted up to 104,000 people in Simcoe Muskoka from contracting COVID-19. 			
SMDHU COVID-19 HealthSTATS page and the COVID-19 Case Explorer			
Ontario COVID-19 Case Status (As of July 29, 2020 at 10:30)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
38,986 +882 since last report +76 since yesterday	34,741 +929 since last report +174 since yesterday	2,769 +14 since last report +1 since yesterday	91 -37 since last report

Highlights:

- There are currently 1,476 known active cases of COVID-19 in Ontario.
- Of these active cases, 91 people are currently hospitalized, with 28 people in ICU.
- In the last week those aged 20-39 had the highest number of new cases.
- There are currently 64 active COVID-19 outbreaks in Ontario (33 long-term care homes, 26 retirement homes, 5 hospitals).
- A total of 2,114,263 tests have been completed with 27,305 tests completed yesterday and 18,268 tests under investigation.

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 28, 2020 at 19:00 EDT)

Total cases	Recovered	Deaths
114,994 +3,297 in the last week	100,134 (87.1%) +2,377 in the last week +397 in the last day	8,912 (7.8%) +50 in the last week

- In Canada, there are currently 5,948 people with known active cases of COVID-19.
- Nationally, the number of daily cases rose over two weeks from July 8 – July 21; with eight provinces/territories having increases in their number of cases. The number of new cases is still lower than what was observed in April and May.
- There were 11 COVID-19 related deaths reported in Canada yesterday in the same six provinces reporting new cases (ON, Quebec, Alta, B.C., Sask. and Man).
- Although there is a decreasing trend across all age groups; for the week of July 15-21, 61% of cases were in people under the age of 40, with both males and females in the 20-29 age group having the highest incidence rate of cases compared to any other age group.
- For the week of July 15-21, outbreaks were primarily seen in food and drink establishments, mass gatherings and in faith communities.
- Exposure categories continue to show exposure in Canada by an unknown source as most prevalent (55%). Cases related to international travel have increased since May, but are still low accounting for only 2.3% cases.
- There were 307,663 people tested for COVID-19 from July 13 to July 19 representing the highest one-week total for testing since the pandemic began. The weekly national average percent positivity is 0.9%
- According to forecasting 116,220 to 121,900 cases and 8,870 to 9,050 deaths are expected by 6 August.

National [weekly epidemiology report](#); National [daily epidemiology updates](#)

Global Situation (As of July 29, 2020 at 10:34 CEST)

Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
16,523,815 +1,642,199 in the last week	655,112 +41,128 in the last week

- Globally, the pandemic continues to grow with the highest number of cases reported since the beginning of the pandemic during the past week with three days in the past week having the highest number of cases ever (July 24-26).
- In the last week global deaths have increased, with deaths being higher than those posted since April 20, 2020 and the highest number of daily deaths (July 24) since the global peak on April 17th.
- Yesterday there were 226,783 new cases and 4,153 deaths around the world, with the highest case counts in the U.S., India, Brazil, Colombia and South Africa and the highest number of deaths in the U.S., India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa.
- The U.S. continues to be the global epicentre of weekly and daily new cases.
- Both Japan and Spain are experiencing a resurgence of COVID-19 with Spain reporting 6,361 new cases yesterday, the highest number of daily cases it has had since April 15th.

[WHO COVID-19 Disease Dashboard](#); daily [WHO Situation Report](#)

Updates

SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Key Messages from Tuesday July 28, 2020

Schools and the use of face coverings/masks

The Premier and Minister of Education are expected to announce plans for fall school re-opening this week. This work is being done at the provincial level with input from various parties who work with children and schools to find the balance that addresses children's physical and mental health and protects those in education settings from being exposed to COVID-19.

Locally we have a close relationship with our schools boards and schools, with a health unit team that has staff that work in schools and liaise at the board level. The Healthy Schools program is dedicated to addressing the health promotion and protection of children and youth in our school systems, and works with various health unit and community partners to ensure healthy growth and development in their students' school and home environments.

There has been some concern that the face covering instruction issued earlier this month did not have a face covering requirement for schools, day cares and day camps. The reason for this is that there are already provincial guidelines in place for these settings. These provincial guidelines are evolving as the pandemic's impact continues to change as we move through the stages of opening. The bottom line is that the health and safety of our children and youth are at the forefront of all guidelines and requirements.

Face Covering/Mask Questions

We continue to receive many calls and questions about the use of face coverings/masks and when and where they are needed, whether physical distancing is required when wearing face coverings and why some customers, visitors, and staff in indoor settings are not wearing them.

Face coverings are required in indoor settings with exceptions for medical and religious reasons. People who are not wearing a face covering/mask do not need to provide proof of their exemption. Although businesses have the right to insist on the use of face coverings to enter their premises, the instruction from the health unit did not require this. Staff working in indoor settings where there is not a plexiglass barrier to prevent transmission can also be exempt from wearing a face covering.

As the research grows stronger in support of the protective value of face coverings/masks, when used along with other precautions (e.g. physical distancing, handwashing, monitoring health and self-isolating and testing) we ask that you to wear a face covering/mask if you can. You protect others, they protect you.

There are also many questions about face coverings coming in about indoor and outdoor gatherings including weddings; questions such as when do you need to wear a face covering at a wedding? Are the rules the same for any indoor gathering? What are the rules for outdoor events?

For answers to these and other questions please read our face covering [FAQs for the public](#) and for [businesses/organizations](#) posted on our website. As always our Health Connection line is open to answer your questions.

Local Media - July 23-29, 2020

- Up, down, north and south: As COVID goes provincially, so it goes locally ([article](#))
- Parents, teachers to rally tomorrow for safe school reopening ([article](#))
- Tourism Barrie lays out 18-month recovery plan ([article](#))
- Innisfil ideaLAB and library distributing free cloth masks ([article](#))
- All paid parking reinstated in Collingwood next week ([article](#))
- Health unit needs to communicate about COVID-19 to younger Muskokans ([article](#))
- From boredom to business ventures: Innisfil teens make use of time in quarantine ([article](#))
- “We’re not trying to make a profit” Barrie Mayor responds to Premier’s claim recent waterfront parking rate increases are price gouging ([article](#))
- RVH easing restrictions with phased plan to resume visitation ([article](#))
- New measures in place at three county landfill sites ([article](#))
- Check it out! Library expanding contactless pickup beginning Monday ([article](#))
- Barrie City Hall banning BBQs and tents at all parks, beaches and trails to address overcrowding ([article](#))
- Allendale and Holly recreation facilities to reopen August 4 but users have to book in advance ([article](#))
- Collingwood to reopen Town Hall service desk and begin charging transit fares as of July 27 ([article](#))
- Springwater Township administration centre, library branches to reopen July 27 ([article](#))
- Tay Township staff remain cautious reopening public buildings ([article](#))
- Gravenhurst prepares for possible reopenings in the fall amid COVID-19 ([article](#))

Provincial Updates since the July 22nd Partner Update

- Ontario moving Toronto and Peel Region into Stage 3 ([news release](#))
- Ontario launches independent long-term care COVID-19 commission ([news release](#))
- Fires up more than 13% in Toronto amid COVID-19 pandemic, firefighters’ union warns ([article](#))
- More people calling mental health help line as pandemic drags on ([article](#))
- Ontario increases child-care centres capacity; ‘cohorts’ of 15 kids now allowed ([article](#))
- Historic agreement delivers up to \$4 billion to support municipalities and transit ([news release](#))
- Ontario announces five new Ontario Health Teams ([news release](#))
- Ontario doctors launch program to help patients connect with loved ones during pandemic ([article](#))
- Ontario supports Indigenous businesses during COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Plans for reopening Ontario’s schools in September to be announced next week ([article](#))

National Updates since the July 22nd Partner Update

- The Canada Revenue Agency announces an extension to the payment deadline and offers interest relief on outstanding tax debts during the COVID-19 pandemic ([news release](#))
- The Government of Canada is investing to safely restart the economy, while protecting the health of Canadians ([news release](#))
- The Government of Canada is providing funding to support child care for returning workers ([news release](#))
- Ministers responsible for immigration meet to jointly plan for the future of immigration in Canada amid COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Update on COVID-19 in Indigenous communities ([news release](#))
- Dr. Tam says Ottawa, experts discussing COVID-19 vaccine orders amid concerns of delay ([article](#))
- How I'm tackling parental burnout even though I'm with my kids 24/7 ([article](#))
- Health Canada authorizes drug remdesivir for severe COVID-19 cases ([article](#))
- Young children less likely to spread coronavirus, McMaster review shows ([article](#))
- How to make working from home a little better – if it looks like you'll be doing it a lot longer ([article](#))
- Anti-masking group draws from anti-vaccination playbook to spread misinformation ([article](#))
- Safe Restart Agreement helps Canadian communities get back on their feet ([news release](#))
- National COVID-19 contact tracing app starts beta testing after three-week delay ([article](#))
- Disabled Canadians struggle to be paired with service animals amid pandemic ([article](#))
- Universities want your help for research project on food access during the pandemic ([article](#))
- Researchers look to unlock secrets of COVID-19 herd immunity by studying Canada's Hutterite colonies ([article](#))

International Updates since the July 22nd Partner Update

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Marks six months since WHO declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern tomorrow.
- Published interim guidance on [safe Eid al Adha practices in the context of COVID-19](#). The document highlights public health advice for social gatherings and religious practices that can be applied across different national contexts.
- Published a [policy brief](#) on preventing and managing COVID-19 across long-term care services.
- [Produced guidance](#) to assist with periodic reviews of COVID-19 response to ensure to take advantage of critical opportunities for learning and improvement to better respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- States [approximately one third of people in the Americas are at risk of developing severe COVID-19 illness due to underlying health conditions](#).
- Provides [support to redesign hospitals to ensure and optimize mitigation measures against COVID-19](#).

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](#).
- **New/Revised**
 - [What you need to know about wearing a face covering in indoor public spaces- FAQ \(Revised July 24, 2020\)](#)
 - [FAQ's for Businesses and Organizations \(Revised July 24, 2020\)](#)
 - **New under [Licensed Child Care](#) expander bar**
 - [Operational Guidance during COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
 - [Child care guidance and FAQ](#)
- 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](#)