

September 23, 2022

To Community Partners and Stakeholders:

Re: Health unit launches weekly update on local COVID-19 Community Risk Level

As we move into Fall 2022 and potential future waves of COVID-19, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) has developed a simple way to communicate to the public the current level of risk of COVID-19 and actions individuals can take to best protect themselves and others from transmission and severe illness due to COVID-19.

The [COVID-19 Community Risk Level](#), available on SMDHU’s website, is based on five indicators (percent positivity of PCR tests, local cases, hospitalizations, institutional outbreaks, and wastewater surveillance) that are monitored weekly. Together, these indicators make up the current overall COVID-19 risk level in our community as one of the following levels: lower, moderate, high, or very high. Each risk level is explained, and guidance is provided about assessing [personal risks](#) (including the health and vaccine status of close contacts), [situational risks](#), and what actions individuals can take to protect themselves and others from spreading and getting severely ill from COVID-19. The COVID-19 Community Risk Level replaces the COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard which provided a local snapshot of the COVID-19 pandemic across four dimensions: virus spread and containment, laboratory testing, health system capacity and public health system capacity.

Community partners are encouraged to be aware of the current COVID-19 Community Risk Level (updated every Tuesday by 2:00 p.m.), and the protective actions individuals can take to minimize their risk. Requirements for businesses, employers, and high-risk settings will not be tied to the COVID-19 Community Risk Level. Information and guidance for businesses and employers to help maintain safer places for workers, customers and the public is available on the [Operating your Business Safely](#) webpage and the [Partners and Municipalities](#) webpage.

As of September 22, the current overall risk for Simcoe Muskoka is moderate and is similar compared to the previous week.

We have created two icons (attached to this email) of the COVID-19 Community Risk Level that include an embedded link directly to our webpage. Please feel free to use these icons on your own organization’s website or social media. If you have any questions about the COVID-19 Community Risk Level please contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thank you for your continued efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

<p>Barrie: 15 Sperling Drive Barrie, ON L4M 6K9 705-721-7520 FAX: 705-721-1495</p>	<p>Collingwood: 280 Pretty River Pkwy. Collingwood, ON L9Y 4J5 705-445-0804 FAX: 705-445-6498</p>	<p>Cookstown: 2-25 King Street S. Cookstown, ON L0L 1L0 705-458-1103 FAX: 705-458-0105</p>	<p>Gravenhurst: 2-5 Pineridge Gate Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1Z3 705-684-9090 FAX: 705-684-9887</p>	<p>Huntsville: 34 Chaffey St. Huntsville, ON P1H 1K1 705-789-8813 FAX: 705-789-7245</p>	<p>Midland: A-925 Hugel Ave. Midland, ON L4R 1X8 705-526-9324 FAX: 705-526-1513</p>	<p>Orillia: 120-169 Front St. S. Orillia, ON L3V 4S8 705-325-9565 FAX: 705-325-2091</p>
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