

## Update for Partners

### COVID-19

August 6, 2020

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### Current Situation

<b>Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status</b> (As of August 6, 2020, 2020 at 13:00)			
Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
664	612	37	3
<b>Highlights:</b> Since the Partner Update on July 29 <sup>th</sup> , there have been nine reported cases of COVID-19, one death and one resolved institutional outbreak.  There are a total of 664 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka reported to date. Compared to the previous day, this represents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase of one confirmed case</li> <li>• No increase in hospitalizations, deaths or recovered cases</li> </ul> <b>Case Characteristics and Status</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The median age of cases who have recovered is 46 years compared to the median age of 85 years among deceased cases.</li> </ul> <b>Cases by Geography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rate of new COVID-19 cases in Ontario is significantly higher than the Simcoe County rate. The rate in Muskoka is about half the Simcoe County rate and one-fifth of the Ontario rate.</li> <li>• The vast majority of COVID-19 cases in Simcoe Muskoka reside in Barrie, Bradford West Gwillimbury, New Tecumseth, and Innisfil; however, Midland had experienced more cases in July (seven) than in March to June combined (five). In comparison, July counts in all other municipalities are similar or lower than in previous months.</li> </ul> <b>Local Outbreaks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately one-quarter (23%) of COVID-19 cases in Simcoe Muskoka have been associated with a local institutional outbreak.</li> </ul>			

#### Pandemic Trajectory

- The seven-day moving average of new COVID-19 cases in Simcoe Muskoka decreased from seven cases per day in mid-June to less than one case per day in early July; however, the average number of cases increased to three cases per day by mid-July, before returning to an average of one case per day by the end of July.

SMDHU [COVID-19 HealthSTATS page](#) and the [COVID-19 Case Explorer](#)

#### Ontario COVID-19 Case Status

(As of August 6, 2020, 2020 at 10:30)

Total cases	Recovered	Deaths	Current Hospitalizations
39,809	35,906	2,783	71

#### Highlights:

- There are a total of 39,809 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ontario reported to date. Compared to the previous day, this represents:
  - An increase of 95 confirmed cases (percent change of +10.5%)
  - An increase of one death (percent change is not applicable)
  - An increase of 159 resolved cases (percent change of +8.9%)
- There are currently 29 people in ICU with 13 on ventilators. Looking to previous Partner Updates, both have been trending downwards for more than a month.
- A total of 2,321,297 tests have been completed, with 26,181 tests completed in the previous day and 19,292 tests currently 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 August 5, 2020 at 19:00 EDT)

Total cases	Recovered	Deaths
118,187	102,788	8,962

#### Highlights as of August 5 at 19:00 EDT:

- There are 6,437 (5.5%) active cases in Canada.
- 395 new cases were reported within the past 24 hours.
- No new cases were reported in five provinces or territories within the past 24 hours.
- No new deaths have been reported in ten provinces or territories within the past 24 hours.
- Despite decreased case counts in Quebec and Ontario, these two provinces continue to drive the epidemic in Canada.
- 4,272,606 people have been tested for COVID-19 in Canada.
  - This equates to a rate of 113,666 people tested per 1,000,000 population.
  - Percent positivity (total) is 2.6%.

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

#### Global Situation (As of August 6, 2020 at 10:34 CEST)

Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
18,614,177	702,642

- The Americas continue to have the highest number of confirmed cases (9,981,204), followed by Europe (3,477,255) and South East Asian (2,360,721).

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

## Updates

### ***SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Key Messages from Tuesday August 5, 2020***

**Confusion around the lifting of the emergency orders** - Ontario has transitioned into the recovery phase with the new [\*Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act\*](#). While the provincial declaration of emergency has ended, the new Act will provide the province with the necessary flexibility to address the ongoing risks and effects of the COVID-19 outbreak. Some [\*emergency orders\*](#) that were previously in place under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, will continue under the new Act. This includes orders related to labour redeployment in long-term care and retirement homes, stages of reopening, compliance with public health advice and gatherings. Therefore our local instructions regarding wearing of face coverings while in all public indoor areas will be maintained as long as provincial emergency orders remain in force.

**COVID-19 Seroprevalence in Ontario: March 27, 2020 to June 30, 2020** - Public Health Ontario seroprevalence study demonstrated that about 1% of the province has had a positive test (probably has been infected to date), with a higher rate in Central East Region of 1.5%, which includes Simcoe Muskoka, and lower in the north at 0.3%. Low prevalence demonstrates that the province was effective in containing the virus with actions such as physical distancing and other public health measures preventing widespread infection in the population. However, low antibody prevalence also means that most of the population has yet to be exposed to the virus and thus, it is a reminder that while we have done well so far, we need to continue to be vigilant.

**Targeting younger demographic with messages** - Ottawa Public Health recently shared the findings of their consultations with youth and young adults on COVID-19 communications. The purpose of the research was to understand how young adults (ages 16-29) behaviours were affected, their understanding of public health measures, their opinions about the measures and ways to engage the age group. Although the research was conducted in May and focused on physical distancing as one of the main public health measures, the findings from Ottawa Public Health will provide us with guidance in developing strategies and tactics related to key messaging on COVID-19 and to promote greater adherence to 'physical distancing' and other protective measures.

**Schools** - Last week the Premier and Minister of Education announced plans for the Fall school re-opening. Understandably parents and teachers have lots of questions about this. SMDHU is committed to supporting the safe reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year in alignment with the Ministry of Education's [\*Guide to reopening Ontario's schools\*](#). SMDHU has a dedicated working group who are in process of developing resources to support safe return to school for parents, school administrators and educators.

**Changes to HealthSTATS COVID-19 page** - Users can now sort [\*Cases by Geographic Area\*](#) and view a chart showing the number of cases by municipality by month. There is also a new chart that shows the sex-specific incidence rates by month under the [\*Pandemic Trajectory\*](#) section.

### ***Local Media (July 29 - August 6, 2020)***

- Low COVID-19 immunity rate means control measures should stay, says doctor ([article](#))
- Local YMCA among three facing closure due to financial viability ([article](#))
- COVID-19: How restrictions make it tougher to cool down on hot days ([article](#))
- Cottagers allowed back on Christian Island, but new rules apply ([article](#))
- Quadmasters, cohorting and remote learning: Public board unveils back-to-school plans ([article](#))
- Tiny Township ends state of emergency ([article](#))
- Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit reports new COVID-related death ([article](#))
- 'I'm fearful it's going to get worse': How COVID-19 aggravates Barrie, Simcoe County opioid crisis ([article](#))
- Summer camp crisis: Closures loom in Ontario after year without income ([article](#))
- Drive-thru COVID-19 testing coming to a Muskoka location near you ([article](#))
- BWG Leisure Centre to reopen next month ([article](#))
- 'We're listening to rural Ontario,' education minister says during visit to Simcoe County ([article](#))
- Babies on Zoom: EarlyON staff keep play-learning alive through pandemic ([article](#))
- School reopening plan leads to mixed emotions from parents, teachers ([article](#))
- Local public and Catholic school boards expecting more flux before September despite return-to-school plan handed down ([article](#))
- Small group drives home message of a safer return to school directly to Barrie area MPP ([article](#))
- Local farmers cultivate \$10,000 donation for long-term care homes ([article](#))
- County administration centre, museum to reopen Tuesday ([article](#))
- Big screen reopening in south-end Barrie Friday ([article](#))
- With tourism in Barrie hit hard, new plan released to get back on track ([article](#))
- 'Don't let your guard down,' mayor warns on eve of long weekend ([article](#))
- COVID-19 rules means Barrie woman can't use physical touch to communicate with non-verbal daughter ([article](#))

### ***Provincial Updates since the July 29th Partner Update***

- Province supporting innovative Made-in-Ontario technology to sanitize PPE ([news release](#))
- Ontario supporting non-profits as Province recovers from COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Ontario provides more supports for families of children on the autism spectrum ([news release](#))
- Ontario encourages all residents to take the Ontario Parks 30x30 Challenge ([statement](#))
- Ontario safely and gradually reopens DriveTest Centres ([news release](#))
- Ontario implementing additional measures at bars and restaurants to help limit the spread of COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Ontario continues to gradually and safely reopen child care for working parents ([news release](#))
- Ontario releases plan for safe reopening of schools in September ([news release](#))
- Elementary schools will be in class full time come September, Ontario says ([news release](#))
- New COVID-19 notification app rolls out in Ontario ([article](#))
- Ontario back-to-school plan worries some immunocompromised parents ([article](#))

- Medical experts led by SickKids release new back-to-school hospital ([article](#))
- Doctor says thousands of babies have missed crucial hearing and screening during pandemic ([article](#))

### ***National Updates since the July 29th Partner Update***

- Government of Canada announces major step in treating and preventing COVID-19 through vaccines and therapies ([news release](#))
- New mobile app to help notify Canadians of potential COVID-19 exposure now available ([news release](#))
- Canada's health care sector: have a say on how to support innovation and choice ([news release](#))
- Travel restrictions to Canada remain in place for August long weekend ([news release](#))
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> wave is coming. Here is what public health experts say we should expect ([article](#))
- Back to school: How provinces are planning for start of school year during pandemic ([article](#))
- Camping in the time of COVID: 'Hordes' descending on wilderness area in 'insane' numbers ([article](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on August 3, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on August 2, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on August 1, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on July 30, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on July 29, 2020 ([statement](#))
- Health Canada recalls more than 50 hand sanitizers in evolving list ([article](#))
- Physical distancing, mask-wearing could be in place for 2-3 years even with vaccine, Tam warns ([article](#))
- 32% of Canadians may hold off on getting eventual COVID-19 vaccine, survey shows ([article](#))
- Canada signs COVID-19 vaccine supply deal with Pfizer and BioNTech ([article](#))
- Coronavirus pandemic may spark an increase in mental-health struggles that could last years: study ([article](#))

### ***International Updates since the July 29<sup>th</sup> Partner Update***

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- [WHO Director – General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 - 3 August 2020](#)
- On 30 July 2020, WHO published an [interactive timeline](#), which will continue to be updated with significant WHO activities

### ***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***

#### **Reopening and Operating Your Business Safely**

- **Revised:** [COVID19 Public Health Guidelines for Food Premises](#)
- **Updated:** [SMDHU Guidance Document for Licensed Childcare Settings](#)
- **Revised:** [COVID-19: SMDHU FAQ Document for Licensed Child Care Settings](#)

#### **Partners and Municipalities**

- **New** content under [Schools](#) Expander Bar

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](#)