

## Update for Partners

### COVID-19

August 12, 2020

[Current Situation](#)

[Updates](#)

[SMDHU Resources](#)

[Credible Sources of Information](#)

### Current Situation

<b>Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status</b> (As of August 12, 2020, 2020 at 13:00)			
Total cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
669	8	621	37
<b>Highlights:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been five additional cases of COVID-19 reported in Simcoe Muskoka since the last Partner Update.</li> <li>• There are currently two people hospitalized with COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka.</li> <li>• There are currently no active outbreaks in Simcoe Muskoka</li> <li>• The effective reproductive number in Simcoe Muskoka has been under 1.0 since July 14, indicating that the spread of COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka continues to decrease.</li> <li>• Age-specific incidence was highest in people aged 18-34 years through June and July.</li> <li>• Of the 60 cases reported in July over 40% were acquired through community transmission, and 45% were a close contact to a confirmed case or were outbreak-related.</li> <li>• Areas in Simcoe Muskoka with the most reported cases in July were Barrie (16), Bradford-West Gwillimbury (10) and Midland (7).</li> </ul> <p>SMDHU <a href="#">COVID-19 HealthSTATS page</a> and the <a href="#">COVID-19 Case Explorer</a></p>			
<b>Ontario COVID-19 Case Status</b> (As of August 12, 2020 at 10:30)			
Total cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
40,289	912	36,590	2,787

**Highlights:**

- In the last day, there were 95 new cases of COVID-19 (+0.2% change previous day), one new death and an additional 134 people recovered from COVID-19.
- There are currently 49 people hospitalized in Ontario with 20 of these people in ICU.
- Of the 912 active cases in Ontario, over 60% are in people under the age of 40, with those aged 20-39 years having the most new cases of all age groups.
- While the majority of new cases are in people who are a close contact to a confirmed case or are outbreak-related cases, 35-40% of cases from July 19 to August 1 (with transmission information) were from community transmission as they had no known epidemiological link.
- There were 24,572 COVID-19 tests performed yesterday with a total percent positivity of 0.5% (+0.1% from previous day)

For more provincial data see: [Province of Ontario COVID-19 case data](#) and [Public Health Ontario Data Tool, Public Health Ontario Daily Epidemiologic Summary, Public Health Ontario Weekly Epidemiologic Summaries](#)

### Canada COVID-19 Case Status

(As of August 11, 2020 at 19:00 EDT)

Total cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
120,421	4,684	106,746	8,991

**Highlights as of August 7, 2020:**

- Nationally, the number of cases and deaths continue to decline with 289 new cases of COVID-19 (Quebec, 91; Alberta 85; B.C. 46; Ontario 33; Sask. 29; Manitoba 4; New Brunswick 1) and four new deaths (Alberta 3; Quebec 1) reported yesterday.
- Alberta, Quebec and Ontario accounted for most new cases and deaths since July 22.
- Since early July, those aged 20-39 years continue to make up the highest proportion of cases, with 57% of cases in people under the age of 40 years.
  - 16% of cases were in those less than 20 years of age
  - 24% of cases were in those 20-29 years of age
  - 16% of hospitalizations were in people 20-39 years last week
- Modelling suggests there will be 119,350 to 126,250 cases and 8,955 to 9,100 deaths in Canada by August 16.

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

### Global Situation (As of August 12, 2020 at 10:42 CEST)

Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
20,120,919	736,766

- Last week the world experienced the first weekly decrease in cases since mid-April, however global deaths remain higher than most weeks through May and June.
- Yesterday there were 216,033 new cases and 4,268 deaths around the world, with the highest case counts in India, the U.S., Brazil, Colombia and South Africa and the highest number of deaths in India, Mexico, Brazil, the U.S. and Colombia.
- France is experiencing a resurgence of COVID-19 reporting 4,619 new cases yesterday, the highest number of daily cases it has had since April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Americas continue to have the highest number of daily and weekly confirmed cases and deaths.

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

## Updates

### ***SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Key Messages from Tuesday, Aug 11, 2020***

#### **Precautions are working but must continue to keep transmission low**

It is pleasing to see the number of daily cases are low, here and across the province. Ontario reported 33 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, the lowest official count in more than 140 days. We all need to stay vigilant with the precautionary measures that got us to this point. It is important to remember that COVID-19 is still circulating in all communities and can be spread by people who are asymptomatic. Community members need to continue to:

- Maintain 2 metre physical distancing from anyone not in your intimate circle of 10 exclusive members.
- Wear a mask in indoor settings and anywhere when the 2 metre distancing can't be maintained or guaranteed.
- Wash hands often, avoid touching your face and sanitize high touch surfaces.
- Monitor your own health, if you feel unwell, self-isolate, use the self-assessment check on the website and if needed get tested.

#### **Important precautions for businesses and workplaces**

- Whether or not a workplace is open to the public there are precautions that need to be followed to reduce the risk for COVID-19 entering and or spreading at the site:
- Daily employee screening to ensure they are not experiencing symptoms of illness.
- Masking at the worksite if serving the public and no shields are in place for protection or if workers cannot maintain a 2 metre distance from each other.
- Frequent handwashing and cleaning and sanitizing.

#### **Re-opening schools this fall**

Parents, teachers, and school staff have many questions about returning to school. Schools are a potential source of transmission and it will have to be managed carefully in partnership with public health professionals, school partners, and parents and caregivers.

School is important for child development and mental health and it's important to find balance in addressing the overall health of children. The science is evolving and we continue to monitor it closely. Currently we know children are more likely to have a mild or asymptomatic infection, and that when they are diagnosed, they are much less likely to be hospitalized or have the same outcomes as adults. We are in a place of very low community transmission of COVID-19. Masking, appropriate physical distancing and hygiene measures will be important to help keep students and staff safe.

Our School Health team has been working with schools for a number of years to protect and promote the health of all children. We have a close partnership with our individual schools and school boards, and we will continue to provide recommendations, resources and supports as needed.

There is no perfect way to reopen schools and as a province we have to proceed cautiously with the best advice and research we have. But we are committed to working with our schools and school boards to open them as safely as possible.

### ***Local Media (August 7 - 12, 2020)***

- County of Simcoe partners with health unit to encourage use of masks ([release](#))
- Oro-Medonte company produced its 10 millionth face shield on Monday ([article](#))
- Possible closure of beach at Wilkins Park, permanent ban on use of tents and bbqs at city beaches a possibility in Barrie ([article](#))
- Top doc says contact sports, band practice ‘problematic’ for students ([article](#))
- Cluster of 11 COVID cases traced to group visiting Muskoka resort ([article](#))
- Have questions about return to school in Simcoe County? We have answers ([article](#))
- Trillium Lakelands updates Muskoka families on COVID-19 back-to-school plan ([article](#))
- ‘No plans to close those two facilities’: However YMCA is not ready to reopen Collingwood, Wasaga Beach centres ([article](#))
- Barrie man facing \$1,000 fine after failing to quarantine for 14 days upon return to Canada ([article](#))
- Catholic school board wants to know if your child is coming back to school ([article](#))
- Free ‘healing’ retreats being offered to local front-line workers ([article](#))
- Low COVID-19 immunity rate means control measures should stay, says doctor ([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](#))
- Bala’s 2020 Cranberry Festival cancelled due to pandemic ([article](#))
- How will school buses operate in September when school starts ([article](#))
- ‘This is an experiment and it’s wrong’: Muskoka union leader on back-to-school plan ([article](#))

### ***Provincial Updates since the August 6th Partner Update***

- Ontario providing municipalities with up to \$1.6 billion in first round of emergency funding ([news release](#))
- Private school plans including smaller classes show stark inequities in education ([article](#))
- Ontario building health and safety in Indigenous workplaces and communities ([news release](#))
- Masks may not be mandatory for Ontario public servants when they return to work: documents ([article](#))
- Lingering safety doubts have some Ontario school bus drivers unsure about return to work ([article](#))
- Ontario confirms 95 new COVID cases today ([article](#))
- More than 1,000 long-term care residents died of COVID-19 in older, multibed homes, analysis shows ([article](#))
- Premier Doug Ford wants testing on all farms as Windsor-Essex moves into Stage 3 ([video](#))
- No one’s talking about winter yet. When it comes to COVID-19, here’s why we should ([article](#))
- Why the idea of ‘social bubbles’ might need to be re-evaluated ([article](#))
- Windsor – Essex to join the rest of province in stage 3 ([news release](#))
- Number of new COVID-19 cases rise above 100 for first time in a week ([article](#))
- Ottawa day camp successful ‘test run’ for September, says parents, organizers ([article](#))
- Investing in the future of Ontario’s tourism industry ([news release](#))
- Historic agreement delivers over \$230 million for child care ([news release](#))
- Doug Ford says he wishes there were five kids in a class, but stands by plan for 30: ‘Let’s give this a shot’ ([article](#))

### ***National Updates since the August 6th Partner Update***

- Government of Canada is providing assistance to help Indigenous Peoples living in urban centres in response to the COVID-19 pandemic ([news release](#))
- Government of Canada launches updated Canada Emergency Subsidy Calculator to support employers ([news release](#))
- [Recent statements](#) from Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
- School outbreaks of COVID-19 will happen. Doctors offer tips to keep them in check ([article](#))
- How does COVID-19 affect the nervous system? Canadian and international scientists want to find out ([article](#))
- Poll: Most Canadians believe the pandemic is far from over ([article](#))
- Canadians reduced household debt in pandemic as government programs propped up consumers ([article](#))
- Canada's guidelines on reopening schools recommend masks for students aged 10 and up ([article](#))
- Supply teachers still a thorny issue for safety-conscious schools ([article](#))
- COVID-19: 8 million Canadians rethinking retirement due to pandemic, report suggests ([article](#))
- Canada: COVID-19 exposes cracks in disability aid ([article](#))
- Canadian economy adds 419,000 jobs in July; more than half of pandemic losses now recouped ([article](#))
- Gyms are open, but are they safe in the age of COVID-19? Here's what you need to know ([article](#))
- 'We should be teaching kids to wear masks' ([article](#))
- Living with face masks: How to stow them, reuse disposables and more ([article](#))
- How do you reduce the risk of COVID-19 in shelters? House people, advocate says ([video](#))
- CANADA: Potential explosion in mental illness could last years after pandemic ([article](#))
- Mental health during pandemic a 'huge concern': health minister ([article](#))

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

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Explored the role of young people in reducing transmission of COVID-19 and in engaging in the response ([subject in focus p.2](#))
- Revised the [COVID-19 global dashboard](#) and will be replacing the daily situation update with weekly updates starting August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Released a [scientific brief](#) on the use of waste water testing surveillance during COVID-19
- Held a global multidisciplinary discussion on COVID-19 modes of transmission ([subject in focus p. 2](#))
- Released a [scientific brief](#) on estimating mortality from COVID-19
- Pan American Health Organization [warns of disruptions to regular health services](#)
- [Declared](#) that the outbreak of COVID-19 continues to constitute a public health emergency of international concern [requiring continued response over the long term](#).
- [Released a joint message](#) with UNICEF calling on governments to protect and promote women's access to skilled breastfeeding counselling amidst the 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 in Simcoe Muskoka.
- Current COVID-19 information is available on our [website](#).

### **New/Revised**

- [How to attend a funeral safely](#)
- [Assessment Centres and Testing](#) expander bar: Muskoka - [Drive through locations for asymptomatic testing](#)
- 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](#)