

Update for Partners

COVID-19

August 19, 2020

[Current Situation](#)

[Updates](#)

[SMDHU Resources](#)

[Credible Sources of Information](#)

Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of August 19, 2020, 2020 at 13:00)			
Total cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
674	9	625	37
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been five additional cases of COVID-19 since the last Partner Update and there is currently one person hospitalized. • While cumulatively 31% of all cases in Simcoe Muskoka were community acquired, over the last week (Aug 9-15) 67% were community acquired. • While the rate of new COVID-19 infections decreased for all age groups in July and August, now younger adults between 18 and 34 years of age have the highest rate of infection (double than any other age group). • 67% of current active cases are in people under 35 years of age. • There are currently no active outbreaks in Simcoe Muskoka. • The rate of new COVID-19 cases in Ontario is significantly higher than the rate in Simcoe and Muskoka. The rate in Muskoka is about half the Simcoe County rate. • The incidence rate of COVID-19 continues to be higher in areas with higher ethno-cultural diversity. • The most common COVID-19 comorbidities reported in Simcoe Muskoka are: hypertension, diabetes, dementia and asthma. <p>SMDHU COVID-19 HealthSTATS page and the COVID-19 Case Explorer</p>			
Ontario COVID-19 Case Status (As of August 19, 2020 at 10:30)			
Total cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
40,972	965	37,215	2,792
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the last day, there were 102 new cases of COVID-19, no new deaths and an increase of 89 resolved cases. • There are currently 42 people hospitalized in Ontario with 15 of these people in ICU. • There are nine public health regions in Ontario with zero reported active cases of COVID-19 and an additional seven regions with less than five reported active cases. 			

- Of the 965 active cases in Ontario, almost 60% are in people under the age of 40, with those aged 20-29 years having the most active cases of all age groups (227).
- The proportion of cases in people under 20 years of age continues to follow an increasing trend although the rate and number of cases remain low.
- During the week of August 2-8, the proportion of cases reporting travel as a likely source of acquisition almost doubled from 4.4% to 8.3%
- There are currently 24 ongoing outbreaks in health care facilities in Ontario (10 long-term care homes, 12 retirement homes and two hospitals)

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 18, 2020 at 19:00 EDT)

Total cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
123,154	4,752 (3.9%)	109,357 (88.8%)	9,045 (7.3%)

Highlights:

- Nationally, the number of new cases and deaths reported daily continues to decrease, as do the weekly reported number of people hospitalized or admitted to ICU.
- Yesterday, 282 new cases of COVID-19 were reported (ON, BC, QC, MB, AB, and SK) and 13 new deaths were reported (QC, ON, MB, and AB).
- Incidence rates have declined across all age groups; however those aged 20-39 years have remained consistently higher compared to all other age groups.
- Altogether, young adults 20-29 years of age have almost the same proportion of cases (15.4%) as those aged 80 years and above (15.5%).
- The age distribution of those acquiring COVID-19 in Canada continues to be younger as the pandemic continues. During the week of August 2-8:
 - The median age of individual who acquired COVID-19 was 32 years.
 - 63% of cases were in people under 40 years of age and 43% of cases were in people under 29 years of age (<20 = 19%; 20-29 = 24%).
 - Cases in those aged 20-29 (24%) are overrepresented as this group makes up 14% of the Canadian population.
 - The proportion of cases in people under 20 increased from 16% to 19%.
- To date, 35.2% of all cases nationally were community acquired and 54.9% were acquired from contact with a positive case.
- Modelling suggested Canada will have 121,650-127,740 cumulative cases and 8,980 - 9,115 cumulative deaths by August 23, 2020.

National [daily epidemiology updates](#); National [weekly epidemiology report](#)
[Update on COVID-19 in Canada: Epidemiology and Modelling](#) (August 14, 2020)

Global Situation (As of August 19, 2020 at 10:42 CEST)

Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
21,938,207	775,582

- The first [WHO Weekly Epidemiological Update](#) reports the number of daily cases around the globe continues to rapidly increase with an average of 260,000 cases and 5,500 deaths.
- In the last week, there have been over 1.8 million cases and almost 40,000 deaths.
- The Region of the Americas remains the most affected in the week ending August 16, accounting for 53% of all new daily confirmed cases and 75% of reported deaths.
- Yesterday there were 206,439 new cases and 4,473 deaths around the world, with the highest number of new cases in India, USA, Brazil, Colombia and Peru and the highest number of deaths in India, Brazil, USA, Colombia and Mexico.

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

Updates

SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Key Messages from Tuesday, Aug 18, 2020

Return to school:

It has been difficult for many families to make decisions about whether to send their children to school or have them do on-line learning. Everyone's situation is different, and the decision to send children to school in-person needs to be one that works for your family. School is important for children for mental and developmental health. Positive news is that currently transmission levels in Simcoe and Muskoka are low. Keeping community transmission low is key to keeping schools safer and the low numbers make attending school in Simcoe Muskoka a safe choice for most children and families at this time.

We know there is no risk-free option with COVID-19 and it would be unrealistic to think that we can get through the next few months without some risk of exposure to COVID-19 in schools and classrooms. As more and more places open up for people to gather there are even more reasons than ever to be consistent with prevention and precautions both at home and at school.

The health unit is working closely with school boards to prevent transmission as much as possible, to identify and manage cases of COVID-19 and to prevent spread in schools. Measures to reduce the risk are being introduced into the school setting such as:

- requiring you to screen your child for symptoms each day
- prompt isolation of sick children and staff
- physical distancing to the extent possible
- enhanced cleaning measures
- cohorting (keeping groups together) to the extent possible
- use of face coverings for most students and staff

Supports for parents:

The health unit is also working to ensure timely and complete communications to support parents, educators and school administrators. We issued a media release to provide an overview of what parents can expect with school reopening. We have created a dedicated [Return to School](#) section on our website. We know that parents have lots of questions and are looking to us for public health answers. We will continue to update this section and will be including FAQs so please check back often. We have also produced a [letter to parents/guardians](#) to provide this information as well as contact information for our Health Connection phone line where public health staff are available to answer questions and provide information to families. It is available extended hours Mondays through Saturdays.

Local Media (August 13-19, 2020)

- Employee at south Barrie Canadian Tire tests positive for COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Local health unit to put more nurses into schools amid pandemic ([article](#))
- Barrie food bank bracing for a spike in usage ([article](#))
- Still no COVID outbreak plan for back-to-school from province, says health unit ([article](#))
- Survey says around 80% of Catholic students will be in classrooms next month ([article](#))
- No COVID-19 transmission in Muskoka after 11 visitors test positive: Gardner ([article](#))
- Barrie Minor Hockey adopts its own 'bubble' system ([article](#))

- 'The arts community has been devastated': Collingwood artists continue to create in the midst of COVID-19 ([article](#))
- City of Barrie counting the ways it can use \$9.1M in COVID relief from the province ([article](#))
- RVH continues to ease visitor restrictions ([article](#))
- Innisfil council, CAO help dozens of families with COVID relief grants ([article](#))
- Province shells out more than \$9M for county pandemic costs ([article](#))
- Health unit confirms student at Georgian College Barrie campus tested positive ([article](#))
- Collingwood getting \$900K for COVID recovery ([article](#))
- Midland mayor happy town getting nearly \$500,000 in provincial aid ([article](#))
- Drive-thru COVID-19 tests to continue as Muskoka awaits provincial funds ([article](#))

Provincial Updates since the August 12th Partner Update

The Ontario government:

- Announced the resumption of infant hearing checks ([news release](#))
- In partnership with the federal government is providing municipalities with up to \$1.6 billion in first round of emergency funding ([news release](#))
- Released 2020-21 First Quarter Finances and updated Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Receives long-term care mission exit report from the Canadian Armed Forces ([news release](#))
- Makes further investments to better protect students and staff ([news release](#))
- Supports the safe reopening of more spaces at gyms and recreation centres ([news release](#)) along with [guidance for facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities during COVID-19](#)
- Invests in Made-in-Ontario physician scheduling technology ([news release](#))
- Featured an [update on what to expect as schools reopen for 2020-21 school year](#)

Other provincial news

- How to talk about back-to-school plans with your kids during a pandemic ([article](#))
- University of Toronto school of public health to launch pandemic institute ([article](#))
- Why experts worry about students returning to university residences ([article](#))
- Supply teachers say bouncing between schools could put staff, students at risk ([article](#))
- Back-to-school means more stress for kids, parents, CMHA says ([article](#))
- Premier Doug Ford assures municipal leaders provincial government will spend whatever it takes to recover from COVID-19 pandemic ([article](#))
- Ontario education minister opens door to staggered start to school reopening ([article](#))
- Ontario teacher's union say back-to-school plan violates health and safety laws ([article](#))

National Updates since the August 12th Partner Update

The Government of Canada:

- Issued statements from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada: [August 19](#), [Aug 17](#), [August 16](#), [August 15](#), [August 13](#), [August 12](#).
- Canada Revenue Agency opened applications for enhanced Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy ([news release](#))
- Released Canada's Flight Plan for safe air travel ([news release](#))
- Announced the new Canada Healthy Communities Initiative which will help local governments and community partners as they adapt to local economic, health and social challenges ([news release](#)). The Canada Healthy Communities Initiative will provide up to \$31 million in funding to support community-led solutions over the next two years under three main themes: creating safe and vibrant public spaces, improving mobility options,

and digital solutions. The goal is to fund projects that quickly help communities adapt to the new reality of COVID-19.

- Continues to advise Canadians against non-urgent travel as reports emerge of [35 flights landing in Canada since August 1](#) with passengers who tested positive for COVID-19. At least 24 of these flights arrived in Toronto. Known COVID-19 exposures related to travel can be found [here](#).
- Announces funding for Indigenous communities and organizations to support community-based responses to COVID-19 ([news release](#))

Other national news:

- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) has released the e-course Pandemic Planning: Reopening for Business, to help organizations across Canada safely return to work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The course will guide employers, supervisors, managers and workers on how to prepare for a safe return to work, and what controls are needed to be put in place to protect everyone and minimize the impact of the pandemic. Topics covered in the course include how coronavirus spreads and its symptoms, employer and worker duties and responsibilities in a COVID-19 return to business plan, methods of control (including cleaning and disinfecting), how to manage the workplace and prepare workers for a safe return, and understanding the impacts of a pandemic on mental health. Pandemic Planning: Reopening for Business is available on the CCOHS website in French and English languages: www.ccohs.ca/products/courses/pandemic-reopening/.
- Women struggle to balance career, parenting during pandemic ([video](#))
- COVID-19 is here to stay. Here's how to live with it ([article](#))
- Pandemic threatens to wipe out decades of progress for working mothers ([article](#))
- Coronavirus Update: Ventilator supply to increase as Tam warns cases could overwhelm Canadian health care ([article](#))
- 'We can't move fast enough.' Huge Canadian-led international study to explore impact of COVID-19 on kids in 13 countries ([article](#))
- Canada - US boarder will remain closed until Sept. 21 ([article](#))
- Health officials warn of potential 'fall peak' in COVID-19 cases in Canada ([article](#))
- Pandemic motivating more parents to get their kids the flu shot, UBC study finds ([article](#))
- Canada's correctional institutions release thousands of inmates in the early days of COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Since COVID-19, Canada's opioid epidemic has suddenly become deadlier ([article](#))
- Misconceptions persist about effectiveness and privacy of COVID Alert app ([article](#))

International Updates since the August 12th Partner Update

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Along with UNICEF and partners published a [Framework for Reopening Schools](#) and [guidance on hand hygiene](#), which compliments [Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools](#) and [Considerations for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID19](#).
- Updated [guidance on home care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and the management of their contacts](#).
- Regional Office for the Americas [identified there has been a reduction in vaccination coverage](#) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Starting August 17, the daily situation report will be replaced by a "COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update" which will focus on analysis and interpretation of the evolving epidemiological situation. All quantitative data will continue to be updated daily on the global COVID-19 dashboard, covid19.who.int. Important narrative updates will appear on the ["Rolling updates"](#) pages. Operational updates will continue to be shared through the ["Weekly Operational Update on 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

- **New** topic under [Individuals and Families](#) [Healthy Living](#): [Active Transportation](#)
- **New** expander bar in [Reporting Preventative Measures Complaints](#): [Complaints relating to travel related mandatory isolation/quarantine](#)
- **New** Expander Bar: [Return to School](#)
 - [Families](#)
 - [Letter to Parents/Guardians](#)
 - [School Administrators and Educators](#)
- **Revised** [MOHLTC Day camp guidelines](#)
- **Revised** [Version 3 Child Care Guidance](#)
- 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.
- Saturday - 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](#)