

Update for Partners

COVID-19

September 9, 2020

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Current Situation

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of September 9, 2020, 13:00)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
738	31	667	37
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compared to the previous day, the total case count represents five new cases, two additional recovered cases, and no new hospitalizations or deaths. 68% of current active cases are people under 35 years of age. There is currently one person hospitalized with COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka. There were 97 new tests per 10,000 population in Simcoe County and 109 tests per 10,000 population in Muskoka in the most recent week. This is in comparison to a provincial testing rate of 126 tests per 10,000 population. Percent positivity rate in Simcoe County is 0.3% and 0.3% in Muskoka compared to a provincial average of 0.5%. The percent positivity rate among males aged 30-59 is twice as high as females of the same age. Active cases are currently located in Barrie, Bracebridge, New Tecumseth, Bradford West-Gwillimbury, Wasaga Beach, Springwater, Ramara and Huntsville. There are a total of three ongoing outbreaks in Simcoe Muskoka, two outbreaks in long-term care homes one outbreak in a workplace. The seven-day moving average of new COVID-19 cases in Simcoe Muskoka has been above two cases per day since mid-August, indicating a substantial upward trend. See Dr. Gardner's key messages for details and the importance of practicing physical distancing, handwashing, wearing a face covering and sticking to your social circle of no more than 10 people. <p>SMDHU COVID-19 HealthSTATS page and the COVID-19 Case Explorer</p>			
Ontario COVID-19 Case Status (As of September 9, 2020, 10:30)			
Total cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
43,685	1,540	39,332	2,813
Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the last day there has been: 			

- An increase of 149 confirmed cases
- No new deaths (percent change of 0%)
- An increase of 136 resolved cases (percent change of +14.3%)
- Of those active cases 61% are in people under 40 years of age; 44% in people under 30 years of age; those aged 20-29 years have the most active cases of all age groups (423).
- A total of 3,188,667 tests have been completed with 17,605 tests completed yesterday.
- There are currently 55 people hospitalized with 18 in the ICU.
- There are currently 49 ongoing outbreaks in health care facilities in Ontario (retirement homes = 23, long-term care homes = 24, hospitals = 2).
- For the most recent full reporting week (August 23-29) 43.4% of cases has no known epidemiological link and 47.2% were associated with an outbreak or a close contact of a confirmed case.

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 September 8, 2020 at 19:00 EDT)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
133,748	7,030	117,565	9,153

Highlights:

- There has been an increase of 1,606 new cases and seven deaths in the last day.
- Of the jurisdictions reporting updates (13), no new cases have been reported in six provinces/territories and no new deaths have been reported in 11 provinces/territories in the last 24 hours.
- New cases were reported in AB (619), BC (429), ON (375), QC (163), MB (11), SK (7) and PEI (2)
- New deaths were reported in AB (5) and BC (2).
- The number of new cases reported during the week of Aug 23-29 represents an 11% increase in cases but continues to be lower than the number of cases observed in April and May.
- Since June, the highest proportion of cases have been observed in those 20-29 years of age, followed by those aged 30-39. Those aged 20-29 years now have the highest proportion of cases since the pandemic began (16%) in comparison to all other age groups.
- Almost 5.9 million tests for COVID-19 have been completed in Canada. This equates to a rate of 156,724 people tested per one million population. Of all people tested, 2.1% have been found to be positive.
- The number of cases linked to international travel is rising and, as of mid-August, is at its highest since mid-March. In the most recent reporting week (August 23-29) 18 travel reported cases were reported involving international travel to and from India, Mexico, USA, Iran, Jamaica, and Switzerland.

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

Global Situation (As of September 9, 2020 at 10:30 CEST)	
Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
27,417,497	894,241

- Yesterday 211,321 new cases and 5,747 new deaths were reported around the world, with the highest number of new cases in India, USA, Brazil, Argentina and Colombia and the highest number of deaths in India, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Colombia.

- For the week ending September 6, 2020, there were over 1.8 million new cases (5% increase) and 37,000 new deaths reported (2% decrease).
- In the last week, India, USA, Brazil, Argentina and Colombia had the most new cases and India, USA, Brazil, Ecuador and Mexico had the most new deaths.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) South East Asia Region continued to show the highest increase in cases in the past week. As well, the European and Eastern Mediterranean Regions also had an increase in the past week.
- The Region of the Americas saw a 1% increase in cases and a 4% decrease in deaths in the past week.
- The USA and Brazil account for nearly three-quarters of all COVID-19 cases in the region, with Argentina, Colombia and Peru accounting for the next largest proportion of cases in the region.
- In the Americas, the Bahamas is experiencing a significant increase in cases (18%) and deaths (15%).

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

Weekly Epidemiological Update ([September 6](#)); [Previous Situation Reports](#)

Updates

SMDHU Medical Officer of Health - Key Messages from Tues., Sept. 8, 2020

Dr. Gardner's Facebook live media briefings take place on Tuesdays. They can be found on the [SMDHU Facebook page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).

1. Screening before going to school is critically important

All individuals including students, staff and essential visitors must self-screen each day before entering the school using the Ontario self-assessment online tool, or other tools as identified by the Ministry of Health or SMDHU. SMDHU has a checklist version for families that can be printed for use, or taken online on our [Return to School pages](#) under COVID-19 on our website.

Children and staff who have any symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 persisting for more than a few hours that are new and not related to seasonal allergies or pre-existing medical conditions, must stay home from school and should be [tested for COVID-19](#).

- If results are returned as negative, students, staff and essential visitors are able to return 24 hours after their symptoms resolve.
- If a health care provider makes an alternative diagnosis and determines that the condition is not COVID-19, they may indicate that the individual can return to school when free of symptoms for 24 hours.
- If the individual is not tested for COVID-19 and there is not a clear alternative diagnosis, then they will need to self-isolate at home for 14 days.
- Medical notes or proof of negative tests should not be required for staff or students to return to school.

What will happen to a student who is ill at school? Students who start to show symptoms of COVID-19 must be promptly separated from others, ideally into a designated room, while waiting to be picked up by a parent or guardian.

What will happen if a student or staff test positive for COVID-19? The health unit will manage individual cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 in school settings including providing direction on communications with staff, visitors, students and families.

2. **Now is not the time to relax measures**

Ontario reported 190 new cases on holiday Monday and 185 more new cases today. Both of those numbers represent the highest daily counts since July 24. We all have to become more vigilant, up our precautionary measures, make sure our social circles are limited and physically distance from anyone not in it. As well:

- **Protect vulnerable at home** - If your family is a multi-generational household or you have close contact with vulnerable individuals in your social circle you need to take extra care with precautions to protect them as children head back to school. It may be important to limit visits at this time, or, if sharing a household, minimize close contact when not wearing a mask, and continue handwashing and disinfecting high touch surfaces as ways to reduce risks.
- **Precautions needed at work** - Workplace transmission is occurring. We can't let our guards down. All employers and employees need to be responsible to protect themselves and other employees. Self-screen for symptoms and do not go to work if ill. Use the self-assessment tool on the website and if needed, get tested. At work, staff are expected to wear a mask if they cannot maintain a 2 metre separation from other employees to prevent the risk of transmission. Wear the mask properly, wash hands often, and maintain that physical distancing. Reminder that a person can show no symptoms of illness and still put others at risk. Don't take chances, take precautions.

3. **Flu Shots**

Flu shots are very important this year. We recommend that if you didn't get a flu shot in previous years that you get one this year. The flu shot won't protect against COVID-19 but we need to protect people from the flu as it does create a lot of sickness and strain on our health care facilities. Getting the flu shot can also reduce unnecessary COVID-19 testing because a lot of the symptoms are similar.

Children are at higher risk of getting the flu and as we have children in school this fall it will be important to have them protected. The flu shot is usually available from your local pharmacy or if you have children under five years of age from your health care provider. Flu shots are usually available starting in October.

Reminder - getting the flu shot will not make you higher risk for getting COVID-19.

Local Media (September 2-9, 2020)

- Crowding at local school could be a prime example of COVID fatigue ([article](#))
- Local Health Unit increased COVID case count by 17 over the long weekend ([article](#))
- Uptick in local COVID-19 cases cause for concern: official ([article](#))
- Students 'seemed, really happy to be back' in classrooms ([article](#))
- County plans to hire dozens to fill gap at local long-term care homes ([article](#))
- BWG Leisure Centre reopening begins next week ([article](#))
- Remote learning will start Sept. 21 for public board students ([news release](#))
- COVID-19 impacting crime and calls: Orillia OPP ([article](#))
- 'These rules are very unrealistic for students': Stayner Collegiate student reacts to new system ([article](#))

- Is your child returning to school? Here's what the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit wants you to know ([article](#))
- Committee supports a permanent seasonal patio program in Bradford ([article](#))
- COVID-19 top of mind as school buses are ready to roll in Simcoe County ([article](#))
- Doug Ford thanks Muskoka Brewery for COVID-19 hand sanitizer production ([article](#))
- How are Muskoka's classrooms being kept clean during COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Collingwood town hall reopening full time next week ([article](#))

Provincial Updates since Sept 2, 2020 Partner Update

The Ontario government:

- Reopens apprenticeship and trade-related exam centres ([news release](#))
- Supports Ontario-made face masks in the fight against COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Announces extraordinary steps to reopen schools safely ([news release](#))
- Invests \$1.3 billion to reopen schools safely ([backgrounder](#))
- Released a statement about keeping students and staff safe as they return to school ([statement](#))
- Announced support for Ontario-made face masks ([news release](#))
- Extends support for employers and employees impacted by COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Extends child care funding to support working parents ([news release](#))
- Provides in-demand skills training to over 15,000 people ([news release](#))
- Updates long-term care visitor policy with easy to follow guidelines ([news release](#))
- Protects transit riders and workers as Province reopens ([news release](#))

Other Provincial News:

- Ontario will not loosen public health rules for another month as schools reopen ([article](#))
- Opportunity to invest in education has been squandered, says epidemiologist ([article](#))
- Spike in Ontario's teachers seeking medical exemptions from work amid COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Testing sewage for COVID-19 could be 'early warning system' ([article](#))
- Ontario teacher sounds alarm as 30-plus students pack into classroom ([article](#))
- Immigrants, refugees made up disproportionate percentage of Ontario's COVID cases: report ([article](#))
- Family caregivers can visit Ontario long-term care homes with no time limits, province clarifies ([article](#))
- Ontario is evaluating a 20-minute COVID test. Will it make a difference? ([article](#))
- COVID-19 lockdown responsible for major backlog in divorce proceedings, lawyer say ([article](#))
- Empty classrooms, surplus teachers: Confusion reigns as school year begins ([article](#))
- Dozens of public health nurses deployed to keep schools safe during COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Could take a year-and-a-half to clear the backlog of surgeries in Ontario ([article](#))
- Ontario to receive additional \$147-million in COVID-19 child-care funding ([article](#))

National Updates since Sept 2, 2020 Partner Update

The Government of Canada:

- Release statements from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada: [September 9](#), [September 8](#), [September 7](#), [September 6](#), [September 5](#), [September 4](#), [September 3](#), [September 2](#),
- Provides support for a safe return to school ([news release](#))
- Announces over 1,000 new projects in support of seniors impacted by COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- (Transport Canada) Fines two individuals for failing to follow direction from the flight crew to wear face coverings during flight ([news release](#))

- Provided an update for Indigenous Peoples and communities in relation to COVID-19 ([news release](#))

Other National News:

- Theresa Tam supports federal review into Canada's pandemic early warning system ([article](#))
- Rising coronavirus case counts a cause for concern, Tam says ([article](#))
- Late-stage trial of COVID-19 vaccine paused after patient experiences 'unexplained illness' ([article](#))
- Coronavirus Update: Multiple provinces report school-linked cases as thousands of students return to class ([article](#))
- For some immigrant and refugee families, back to school in a pandemic comes with additional stressors ([article](#))
- Ottawa extending its widely criticized pandemic rent-relief program ([article](#))
- Lonely days ahead for grandparents whose pandemic bubbles are about to burst ([video](#))
- Canada added 246,000 jobs in August, but employment still one million short of pre-COVID level ([article](#))
- Parents face dilemma over whether to enroll children in extracurricular activities ([article](#))
- Canada: Experts say a national health data infrastructure could manage pandemic with less disruption ([article](#))

International Updates since Sept 2, 2020 Partner Update

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Published [guidance of the use of corticosteroids](#) in the treatment of COVID-19.
- Published [guidance for individuals who tend to bodies](#) of persons who have died of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Spelled out four essential things all countries, communities and individuals must focus on to rein in COVID-19:
 1. prevent amplifying events;
 2. protect vulnerable groups (older people, those with underlying conditions, frontline workers);
 3. empower people to protect themselves and others; and
 4. tailor actions to find, isolate, test and care for those who have COVID-19 and trace and quarantine their contacts.

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](#). We are always keeping our website up to date, the following is:
Updated Sept 4: [FAQs – Return to School for Families](#)
- SMDHU Health Connection 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](#).

Health Connection 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](#)