

COVID-19 Update for Partners

April 7, 2021

[Key messages from Dr. Gardner](#)

[Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status](#)

[Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccine Data](#)

[Local Media Updates](#)

[Provincial, National and Global COVID-19 Case Status](#)

[Provincial, National and Global Updates](#)

[SMDHU Resources](#)

[Credible Sources of Information](#)

Key messages from Dr. Gardner, Medical Officer of Health

COVID-19 vaccine rollout update

- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) and our partners have reached a significant milestone. We have now administered over 100,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccines, with over 21,000 doses administered last week.
- However, we still have a long way to go. The third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is a real threat to our communities. The quicker people can be immunized, the sooner we will be able to reduce transmission in our communities and bring the pandemic under control.
- As a reminder, **the best vaccine to get is the first one available to you**. If you are eligible, please make sure to get vaccinated. There are now more options to get immunized in the community, including:
 - **Our mass immunization clinics**, which continue to operate 7 days a week in Simcoe Muskoka. Clinics are fully booked up until April 17, but appointments are available from April 18-May 14. We will continue to add clinics to the provincial booking system approximately one month in advance, so if appointments do book up, please check back regularly for updated availability.
 - **25 pharmacies** in Simcoe Muskoka, with more coming, are now offering the AstraZeneca vaccine to adults 55 years and older. Residents can book an appointment directly through [participating pharmacies](#).
 - **Family Health Teams and Community Health Centres** throughout Simcoe Muskoka are administering the AstraZeneca vaccine to their patients 55 years and older. Participating providers are reaching out to eligible patients directly to book immunization appointments based on vaccine supply. In anticipation of additional vaccine supply in the coming weeks, we have also offered vaccine to other primary care providers who would like to administer this to their patients 55 years and older in their practice.

Phase 2 of the provincial COVID-19 vaccine rollout begins

- As we move into Phase 2, the following groups are now eligible for vaccination:
 - **Adults aged 60 and older**, as of today, can now book a vaccination appointment directly through the [provincial booking system](#).

- **Adults aged 50 and older in COVID-19 “hot spot” communities.** In Simcoe Muskoka, the province has identified the area of Bradford East as a “hot spot” community based on ongoing high rates of COVID-19 transmission, hospitalization, and death. In collaboration with local health and community partners, we are working on a plan to bring immunization to this community in the coming weeks.
- **Individuals with the Highest-Risk and High-Risk health conditions,** as identified in the Province of Ontario’s [Guidance for Prioritization of Phase 2 Populations for COVID-19 Vaccination](#), **along with one essential caregiver** are now eligible to receive vaccination. We will be working with local hospitals and primary care teams to identify and offer immunization to these individuals.
- **It is important to note that Phase 2 is expected to occur now until the end of June to complete, based on vaccine supply.**

COVID-19 and younger populations

- Last week, Ontario released the latest COVID-19 modelling data which showed that we are now seeing higher rates of young people being hospitalized and admitted to intensive care units (ICU) than ever before.
- Locally, we are seeing a similar pattern. As of yesterday, 12 of 41 people hospitalized and 4 of 14 people in ICUs in Simcoe Muskoka were under the age of 60.
- This serves as a reminder of how important it is for all of us to take the virus seriously and take every precaution we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19. People can protect themselves and others by:
 - Staying home as much as possible;
 - Limiting close contacts to the people you live with and maintaining 2-metres physical distance from everyone else;
 - Avoiding travel except for essential reasons;
 - Wearing a mask in indoor public and workspaces as well as when you cannot maintain 2-metres distance from others;
 - Screening daily for symptoms if attending school, childcare and/or work; and,
 - Getting immunized as soon as you are eligible to do so.

Ontario enacts provincial emergency and stay-at-home order

- Today, the Province announced a 3rd declaration of an [emergency and stay-at-home order](#) which will take effect on Thursday April 8th at 12:01 AM.
- We are working through the [order-in-council](#) associated with the declaration and stay-at-home order to assist us in updating the SMDHU website and the appropriate guidance documents and resources for our partners and the public.

Previous media briefings are on the SMDHU [Facebook](#) page and [YouTube](#) channel.

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of April 7, 2021 14:00)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
8,208	681	7,226	205
<u>In the last day:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 84 people tested positive, 58 people recovered, and there were 2 new deaths. ● There were 59 new variant cases* identified. <u>Currently:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There have been 195 new cases reported to the health unit for the current week. 			

- 41 people are hospitalized for COVID-19.
- There are 316 active variant cases*.
- There are 19 ongoing outbreaks (institutions: 7, educational settings: 6, workplaces: 3, community settings: 2, congregate settings: 1), including 11 active outbreaks with known variant cases.

Since the last Partner Update:

- We have reported 509 new cases, 256 recoveries, and 7 new deaths.
- There are 234 more active cases and 6 more people hospitalized for COVID-19 compared to the same day last week.
- There are 5 more active outbreaks compared to the same day last week.
- Cases reported to the health unit during the week of March 28 increased by 44% compared to the previous week.

For more local data, see: SMDHU [COVID-19 HealthSTATS page](#), [COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard](#), [Provincial COVID-19 Response Framework – Status of Simcoe Muskoka](#)

*Variant cases encompass confirmed VOC cases and positive screens for a VOC. Caution should be taken when interpreting these data due to potential sampling biases and delay between sample collection and sequencing in recent weeks.

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccine Data *(As of April 7, 2021 14:00)*

Total doses administered	Doses administered previous day
111,788	2,186

Highlights:

- 18,305 immunizations have been provided since the last Partner Update.
- Over 93,000 people have received their first dose, including:
 - 3,073 long-term care (LTC) residents (96%);
 - 3,514 retirement home residents (97%);
 - 19,120 adults 80 years of age and older (84%); and,
 - 14,368 Adults 75-79 years of age and older (64%).
- Over 4,500 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine have been administered by Family Health Teams in Simcoe Muskoka.
- Over 18,000 people have received both required doses of the vaccine, including over 3,300 retirement home residents and nearly 2,900 LTC residents.

Local Media Updates *(Since March 31, 2021 Partner Update)*

- Province's postal code vaccine plan targets Bradford ([article](#))
- Easter holiday testing confirms 371 new COVID-19 cases in Simcoe Muskoka ([article](#))
- Business owners defy shutdown as health experts warn of dangers ([article](#))
- Barrie Mayor sees streaks of light in the dark days ahead ([article](#))
- 'Proud to support': Barrie, Simcoe County ease the GTA's COVID-19 patient load ([article](#))
- Local business owners 'frustrated, angry' over latest shutdown ([article](#))
- Online vigil to honour PSWs, frontline healthcare workers ([article](#))
- 'It's pure exhaustion,' says BIA boss as province applies emergency brake ([article](#))
- Stevenson Memorial Hospital managing capacity pressures due to COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Gardner 'relieved' to see province-wide measures announced ([article](#))
- RVH returns to 'no visitor policy' as of Saturday ([article](#))
- First COVID case found in Simcoe County schools through asymptomatic testing ([article](#))
- Pharmacies across Simcoe Muskoka to offer COVID-19 vaccine ([article](#))
- Simcoe Muskoka Catholic school board preparing for possible closures ([article](#))

Provincial, National and Global COVID-19 Case Status			
Ontario (As of April 7, 2021, 10:30)			
Total cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
370,817	27,359	335,983	7,475
<p><u>As of today:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 3,215 new cases, 2,407 resolved cases, and 17 deaths in the last day. There are a total of 2,291 confirmed cases of the U.K. variant, 72 cases of the South African variant, and 120 cases of the Brazilian variant. A total of 1,397 people are hospitalized for COVID-19, 504 people are in intensive care units (ICU) and 311 people are on ventilators. There are 794 ongoing outbreaks (schools and childcares: 277, health care settings: 162, workplaces: 160, congregate living: 103, other settings: 92). <p><u>Since the last Partner Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been 20,914 new cases, 13,601 recoveries, and 109 deaths. There are 7,204 more active cases compared to the same day last week. There are 286 more people hospitalized, 108 more people in the ICU, and 59 more people on ventilators compared to the same day last week. The 7-day average number of new daily cases is 2,988. <p><u>Vaccine status:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 2,726,221 vaccines doses have been administered to date, with 104,382 doses administered yesterday. 324,783 people in Ontario have been fully vaccinated. <p><u>Regional updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas with the highest number of active cases per 100,000 population: Peel (383.50), Toronto (335.70), York (218.49), Ottawa (215.04), and Middlesex-London (211.18). Areas with the highest number of active cases: Toronto (9,170), Peel (5,299), York (2,425), Ottawa (2,009), and Durham (1,361). <p><u>Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: March 21-27, 2021:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New cases increased by 30.4% compared to the week prior. This is the highest weekly increase in cases since the week of December 29, 2020. The most ethnically diverse neighbourhoods had COVID-19 rates that were 3.8 times higher than those in the least diverse neighbourhoods during the week of March 21. <p>For more provincial data, see: Ontario COVID-19 case data, Public Health Ontario Data Tool, Daily Epidemiologic Summaries and Weekly Epidemiologic Summaries</p>			
Canada (As of April 6, 2021 at 19:00 EDT)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
1,020,893	60,299	937,453	23,141
<p><u>Yesterday:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada reported 6,520 new cases and 23 deaths. New cases were reported in all provinces and territories except PEI, NL, NWT, NT and YT. Deaths were reported in BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, and QC. 			

Since the last Partner Update:

- In the last week, 44,295 people tested positive for COVID-19, 215 people died, and 30,176 people recovered.
- There are 13,904 more active cases of COVID-19 than there was a week ago.

Between March 22 and March 29, 2021:

- The number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized increased from 1,790 to 1,936.
- The number of COVID-19 patients in ICU beds increased from 622 to 703.
- The number of COVID-19 patients mechanically vented increased from 337 to 396.

Weekly epidemiology update: March 21-27, 2021:

- New cases increased by 27% compared to the previous week, with an average of 4,421 new cases reported every day.
- New deaths decreased by 3% compared to the previous week, with an average of 30 deaths reported every day.
- The number of weekly hospitalizations increased by 8% and ICU admissions increased by 11% compared to the previous week.
- Daily case rates remain highest among those 20-39 years of age.
- According to forecasting, between 1,023,620 to 1,079,240 cumulative reported cases and 23,085 to 23,500 deaths are expected by April 11, 2021.

Key vaccine updates as of March 27, 2021:

- 11.91% of the population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, including:
 - 73.71% of adults aged 80 or older;
 - 81.45% of health care workers targeted for priority vaccination; and,
 - 92.61% of adults living in group living settings for seniors.
- 1.76% of population have received both required doses of the vaccine.

For more national data, see: [Daily epidemiology updates](#) and [Weekly epidemiology report](#)

Global (As of April 7, 2021 at 10:44 CET)	
Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
131,837,512	2,862,664

In the last day:

- There were 489,034 new cases and 7,885 deaths.
- India, the U.S., Turkey, Brazil, and Iran reported the newest cases and Brazil, India, the Ukraine, Russia, and the Philippines reported the most deaths.

In the past week:

- Over 4.2 million new cases and 70,711 deaths were reported.
- India, the U.S., Brazil, Turkey, and France reported the newest cases and Brazil, the U.S., India, Italy, and Poland reported the most new deaths.

Highlights from Weekly Epidemiological Summary as of April 4, 2021:

- The number of new global COVID-19 cases continued to increase for the sixth consecutive week, with over 4 million new weekly cases reported.
- The number of reported new deaths increased for the third consecutive week, increasing by 11% compared to the previous week.

For more international data, see: [WHO COVID-19 Disease Dashboard](#) and [Weekly Epidemiological and Operational Updates](#)

Provincial, National and Global Updates *(Since March 31, 2021 Partner Update)*

Provincial Updates

The Ontario Government:

- Enacts provincial emergency and stay-at-home order ([news release](#))
- Is moving to Phase Two of COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan ([news release](#))
- Extends COVID-19 vaccination booking to more age groups ([news release](#))
- Implements province-wide emergency brake ([news release](#))
- Expands pharmacy, primary care locations for COVID-19 vaccinations ([news release](#))

Public Health Ontario published:

- Interim Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control of SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern for Health Care Settings ([guidance document](#))
- Updated: COVID-19 Regional Incidence and Time to Case Notification ([epi summary](#))
- Updated: COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Ontario ([surveillance report](#))
- Updated: Trends of COVID-19 Incidence in Ontario ([surveillance report](#))
- Updated: Adverse Events Following Immunization for COVID-19 in Ontario ([report](#))

Other Provincial News:

- Ontario imposes stay-at-home order, declares emergency as cases surge ([article](#))
- SickKids Hospital to open eight ICU beds for young adults with COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Some Ontario virus hot spots opt to close schools ([article](#))
- People 50 and older in ON hot spots will be eligible for vaccines in coming weeks ([article](#))
- Ontario urged to deploy more rapid COVID tests to slow pandemic's third wave ([article](#))
- Experts urge province to vaccinate essential workers as hospitals reach capacity ([article](#))
- Ontario LTC ministry asks homes to work on increasing staff vaccine uptake ([article](#))
- Dr. Homer Tien, president of Ornge, to lead Ontario COVID-19 vaccine task force ([article](#))
- More than 900 Amazon workers got COVID-19, data shows ([article](#))
- Over 50k sign petition for ON to prioritize vaccination for teachers, support staff ([article](#))
- Pharmacies across Ontario to offer COVID-19 vaccines ([article](#))
- Variants are driving rise in younger, sicker patients needing specialized care ([article](#))
- Restaurants and businesses demand compensation as lockdown enacted ([article](#))

National Updates

The Government of Canada:

- Implementing COVID-19 vaccination in Canada ([statement](#))
- Invests to improve worker safety, capacity of Ontario meat processing ([news release](#))
- Supports testing and contact tracing through the Safe Restart Agreement ([news release](#))
- Face masks that contain graphene may pose health risks ([recall](#))
- COVID-19 update for Indigenous Peoples and communities ([news release](#))
- Recall of certain hand sanitizers that may pose health risks ([recall](#))
- Statements from the Chief Public Health Officer: [April 1](#), [April 5](#), [April 6](#), [April 7](#)

Other National News:

- Only two thirds of Canada's available COVID-19 vaccines administered ([article](#))
- Panel stands by recommendation to extend time between vaccine doses ([article](#))
- Tam says younger, healthier people need intensive care quickly with variants ([article](#))
- Canadian health officials appeal to public wary of AstraZeneca vaccine ([article](#))
- High vaccination rates drive declines of COVID cases in Indigenous communities ([article](#))
- Canada passes one million COVID-19 cases ([article](#))
- Younger people at highest risk of poor mental health outcomes from pandemic ([article](#))

- Finish line anxiety is now the defining feature of pandemic life ([article](#))
- COVID-19 death toll in Canada may be higher than official numbers indicate ([article](#))
- Canada to receive nearly 2.2 million vaccine doses this week as cases spike ([article](#))
- Obesity stigma could have some people putting off early COVID-19 shots ([article](#))
- Lessons learned: Why many Canadian schools are staying open in third wave ([article](#))
- 'Public health crisis': prison conditions during pandemic being investigated ([article](#))
- Pandemic at most challenging stage, Canadians must give vaccines time to work ([article](#))

Global Updates

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- In light of World Health Day, Director General notes that “COVID-19 has exacerbated inequalities both between and within countries. While we have all undoubtedly been impacted by the pandemic, the poorest and most marginalized have been hit hardest – in terms of both lives and livelihoods lost.” ([Remarks at April 6 media briefing](#))
- WHO urges countries to build a fairer, healthier world post COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Safety of the COVID-19 vaccine ([feature story](#))
- Side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines ([feature story](#))
- Director General stresses that “As we work to end the pandemic and recover together, health and care workers must come first... Investing in the health workforce is an investment in women and youth: almost 70% of the global health workforce are women. In particular, we must support countries with fewer resources to expand their workforce capacity and pay decent salaries.” ([Remarks at April 1 media briefing](#))
- New toolkit helps older adults maintain good mental health during the pandemic ([article](#))

Other International News:

- EMA recommends adding blood clotting as a possible side effect of AstraZeneca vaccine but stresses benefits ([article](#))
- U.S. would like to loosen border restrictions, ‘we’re not there yet,’ Trudeau says ([article](#))
- WHO does not back requiring vaccine passports for travel ‘at this stage’ ([article](#))
- Fully vaccinated people can resume travel at ‘low risk,’ U.S. CDC says ([article](#))
- Italy makes COVID-19 vaccine mandatory for all health workers ([article](#))
- World trade body chief says vaccine inequity ‘unacceptable’ ([article](#))

SMDHU Resources

SMDHU [website](#) – recent changes include:

Main COVID

- Updated main content with information about the provincial emergency shutdown
- Updated [expander bar](#) title to reflect that adults 60 years of age and older can now book a vaccine appointment via the provincial booking system
- Added new expander bar with information on the [AstraZeneca Pharmacy Rollout](#)
- Posted revised fact sheet “[You are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19](#)”

Vaccine and Immunization

- Updated main content to reflect that adults 60 years of age and older can now book a vaccine appointment via the provincial booking system
- Updated main content to reflect that some local pharmacies are now booking vaccine appointments for adults ages 55 or older and posted [link](#) to pharmacy locator

Operating your Business Safely

- Updated main content with information about the provincial emergency shutdown

- Updated content and guidance documents under the following expander bars to reflect emergency shutdown measures:
 - [Resources for all employers and workplaces](#)
 - [Mandatory face covering in indoor public spaces](#)
 - [Curling Clubs](#)
 - [Day Camps](#)
 - [Food Operators](#)
 - [Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings](#)
 - [Landlords and Property Managers](#)
 - [Malls and Shopping Centres](#)
 - [Outdoor Recreational Amenities](#)
 - [Personal Service Settings](#)
 - [Recreational Camps](#)
 - [Recreational Water Facilities](#)

Partners and Municipalities

- Updated main content with information about the provincial emergency shutdown
- Updated content and guidance documents under the following expander bars to reflect emergency shutdown measures:
 - [Day Camps](#)
 - [Farmers' Markets](#)
 - [Food Banks and Donation Centres](#)
 - [Outdoor Recreational Amenities](#)
 - [Places of Worship](#)
 - [Public Washrooms](#)

New Public Health Alerts:

- **April 7, 2021:** [COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #13: Appointments Open for 60+ Years, More Essential Caregivers Eligible, and Phase 2 Rollout Continues to Highest and High Risk Health Conditions](#)

Additional SMDHU resources:

- SMDHU [COVID-19 HealthSTATS page](#)
- [SMDHU Vulnerable Populations for COVID-19 Response Interactive Map](#) highlights vulnerable populations in Simcoe Muskoka.
- 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 - 8:30am-6pm; Saturday - 8:30am-4:30pm

Credible Sources of Information

- [Ontario Ministry of Health](#)
- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Centre for Effective Practice COVID-19 Resource Centre](#)
- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)