

COVID-19 Update for Partners

April 14, 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

Phase 2 COVID-19 vaccine rollout update

- The province's COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution Plan has now moved into Phase 2. While many new, larger groups are included in Phase 2, unfortunately this does not mean that all of these groups will be able to get vaccinated right now. **Our vaccine supply has not increased**, so we are still needing to work through these groups in a sequenced fashion, starting with those who are most vulnerable.
- It is important to note that we should not look to immunization to control the third wave. It is going to take time to work through the priority groups and immunize our population. **Until most of the population has been fully immunized, we all need to continue to follow public health measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 and save lives.**
- There are several options for getting vaccinated in Simcoe Muskoka. The following groups are eligible to book an appointment at one of our community vaccination clinics:
 - **Adults aged 60 and older** can book directly via the [provincial booking system](#).
 - **Eligible groups not age-related** can pre-register via the Health Unit's [website](#). Priority groups from Phase 1 who have not yet been vaccinated continue to be eligible in Phase 2.
 - There is currently limited appointment availability at our clinics from April 18-May 14. If appointments book up, please check back regularly for updated availability. We will be adding appointments beyond this date once we know how much vaccine we will have to distribute at this time.
- COVID-19 vaccination is also available to **adults 55 years of age and older** through:
 - **Participating pharmacies in Simcoe Muskoka.** Information about participating pharmacy locations and how to book an appointment can be found on the province's [website](#).
 - **Family Health Teams, Community Health Centres, and other participating primary care providers.** Please do not call your primary care provider to inquire about this. Participating providers are reaching out to eligible patients directly to book immunization appointments based on limited vaccine supply.

Vaccination outreach to specific groups

We are also offering specific opportunities for vaccination to certain groups, including:

- **Residents 50 years of age and older living in the Bradford West Gwillimbury (BWG) L3Z postal code area.** This group can book an appointment directly via the [provincial booking system](#). We are also working with local health and community partners to provide additional clinics and appointments for eligible BWG residents, beginning this week and rolling out over the coming weeks.
- **Homebound residents who are eligible for vaccination.** Home and Community Care (HCC) nurses started immunizing homebound patients yesterday. We will continue to work through the list of about 800 patients for this in the coming weeks with HCC, EMS partners, and the Barrie Community Health Centre.
- **Residents and front-line workers of high-risk congregate settings as well as one essential caregiver.** We are encouraging those eligible to first check with the congregate setting they are affiliated with for any vaccination opportunities being planned specifically for them, otherwise they can pre-register via our [website](#).
- **Individuals in the highest-risk health condition category, followed by the high-risk category, plus one essential caregiver where eligible,** as outlined in the Province of Ontario's [Guidance for Prioritization of Phase 2 Populations for COVID-19 Vaccination](#). Local hospitals and primary care leads continue to work to identify these patients and get them vaccinated. Information about how this group can pre-register is also available on our [website](#).

Case and contact management update

- Due to the high numbers of COVID-19 cases and outbreaks in our region, our capacity to follow up with confirmed cases and close contacts continues to be extremely stretched. As a result, at times, we may not be able to follow up with everyone in a timely manner.
- If you have been identified as a case, or if you haven't heard from us but have symptoms, are waiting for a test result, or have received a positive test result, stay home and self-isolate for 10 days after your symptoms started.
- If you have been identified as a close contact, you may be informed either from public health, by a provincial health organization supporting us, or by someone in your life who has tested positive. If someone informs you that you are a close contact, you are required to take the following steps to stop the spread of COVID-19:
 - Stay home and self-isolate for 14 days after your last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19.
 - Only leave the house to get tested. It is recommended you seek testing within 7 days from your last exposure to the person who tested positive for COVID-19 and then again on or after 10 days from your last exposure to them. For testing centre locations, please visit our [website](#).
 - Monitor yourself daily for symptoms of COVID-19. If you do develop symptoms, please get tested again, even if you were recently tested.
 - If you do get tested, you must self-isolate while you wait for your results. **Even if your test result is negative, you MUST continue to self-isolate for 14 days.**

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

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of April 14, 2021 14:00)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
8,937	971	7,601	215
In the last day:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 89 people tested positive, 203 people recovered, and there were 3 new deaths.• There were 113 new variant cases* identified.			

Currently:

- There have been 265 new cases reported to the health unit for the current week.
- 42 people are hospitalized for COVID-19.
- There are 494 active variant cases*.
- There are 19 ongoing outbreaks (educational settings: 7, institutions: 5, workplaces: 3, community settings: 3, congregate settings: 1), including 12 active outbreaks with known variant cases.

Since the last Partner Update:

- We have reported 729 new cases, 375 recoveries, and 10 new deaths.
- There are 290 more active cases compared to the same day last week.
- There are 2 more active outbreaks compared to the same day last week.
- During the week of April 4, there were 654 cases reported to SMDHU, which was 45% higher than the 450 cases reported the week prior.

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 14, 2021 14:00)

Total first doses administered	Total second doses administered
121,752	19,424

Highlights:

- 24,645 immunizations have been provided since the last Partner Update.
- Over 122,750 people have received their first dose, representing 19.5% of the population in Simcoe Muskoka. This includes:
 - 24,908 adults 80 years of age and older (84%);
 - 17,349 adults 75-79 years of age (78%);
 - 19,219 adults 70-74 years of age (59%); and,
 - Over 75% of long-term care and retirement home staff and essential caregivers.
- Nearly 14,200 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine have been administered by primary care settings and pharmacies in Simcoe Muskoka.
- Over 19,400 people have received both required doses of the vaccine, representing 3.1% of the population in Simcoe Muskoka.

Local Media Updates (Since April 7, 2021 Partner Update)

- 20% of region's COVID-19 cases linked to Easter gatherings ([article](#))
- Reopen schools first and ASAP, says Simcoe Muskoka Medical Officer of Health ([article](#))
- RVH kicks into high gear as more COVID patients arrive daily from GTA ([article](#))
- Situation boils over at Barrie restaurant with viral video; liquor license suspended ([article](#))
- Lighthouse clients and staff receive COVID-19 vaccine at mobile clinic ([article](#))
- Health officials take abuse over vaccine rollout ([article](#))
- Pop-up immunization clinics could target specific neighbourhoods, says Gardner ([article](#))
- Woman awaiting surgery pleads for people to 'come together' to end pandemic ([article](#))
- Organizer of downtown protest fined by police ([article](#))
- Downtown business owners say they're losing clients due to maskless protesters ([article](#))
- Bylaw officers inundated with businesses straying from COVID restrictions ([article](#))
- 'We're now hitting about 100 cases a day. We've never seen that before' ([article](#))

- Gardner defends vaccines for vulnerable people before essential workers ([article](#))
- New restrictions 'devastating' for business community, Orillia Chamber says ([article](#))
- 'I'm willing to comply': Defiant business owners swayed by stay-at-home order ([article](#))

Provincial, National and Global COVID-19 Case Status			
Ontario (As of April 14, 2021, 10:30)			
Total cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
398,835	36,808	354,417	7,610
<p><u>As of today:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 4,156 new cases, 3,160 resolved cases, and 28 deaths in the last day. • There are a total of 24,467 confirmed cases of the U.K. variant, 84 cases of the South African variant, and 176 cases of the Brazilian variant. • A total of 1,877 people are hospitalized for COVID-19, 642 people are in intensive care units (ICU) and 422 people are on ventilators. • There are 885 ongoing outbreaks (schools and childcares: 377, workplaces: 163, congregate living: 123, health care settings: 111, other settings: 111). <p><u>Since the last Partner Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been 28,018 new cases, 18,434 recoveries, and 135 deaths. • There are 9,449 more active cases compared to the same day last week. • There are 480 more people hospitalized, 138 more people in the ICU, and 111 more people on ventilators compared to the same day last week. • The 7-day average number of new daily cases is 4,003. <p><u>Vaccine status:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 3,422,974 vaccines doses have been administered to date, with 112,817 doses administered yesterday. 337,206 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 (501.47), Toronto (423.42), York (325.25), Ottawa (311.27), and Durham (307.03). • Areas with the highest number of active cases: Toronto (11,566), Peel (6,929), York (3,610), Ottawa (2,908), and Durham (1,983). <p><u>Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: March 28-April 3, 2021:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New cases increased by 31.1% compared to the week prior. This is the largest weekly increase reported since the week of January 10, 2021 when Ontario was in the peak of the second wave. • Almost two-thirds (65.5%) of cases this week were reported by public health units within the GTA (Toronto, Peel, York Region, and Durham). <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 13, 2021 at 19:00 EDT)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
1,078,562	78,293	976,877	23,392

Yesterday:

- Canada reported 7,548 new cases and 36 deaths.
- New cases were reported in all provinces and territories except PEI, NWT, NT and YT.
- Deaths were reported in BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, and QC.

Since the last Partner Update:

- In the last week, 57,669 people tested positive for COVID-19, 251 people died, and 39,424 people recovered.
- There are 17,994 more active cases of COVID-19 than there was a week ago.

Between March 29 and April 5, 2021:

- The number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized increased from 1,946 to 2,034.
- The number of COVID-19 patients in ICU beds increased from 705 to 812.
- The number of COVID-19 patients mechanically vented increased from 397 to 435.

Weekly epidemiology update: March 28-April 3, 2021:

- New cases increased by 28% compared to the previous week, with an average of 5,663 new cases reported every day.
- New deaths decreased by 8% compared to the previous week, with an average of 28 deaths reported every day.
- The number of weekly hospitalizations increased by 5% and ICU admissions increased by 16% compared to the previous week.
- Daily case rates remain highest among those 20-39 years of age and lowest among those 80 years and older.
- According to forecasting, between 1,093,510 to 1,150,910 cumulative reported cases and 23,290 to 23,710 deaths are expected by April 18, 2021.

Key vaccine updates as of April 3, 2021:

- 15.22% of the population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, including:
 - 80.83% of adults aged 80 or older;
 - 86.27% of health care workers targeted for priority vaccination; and,
 - 95.96% of adults living in group living settings for seniors.
- 1.88% 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 14, 2021 at 14:50 CET)	
Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
136,996,364	2,951,832

In the last day:

- There were 679,003 new cases and 10,367 deaths.
- India, the U.S., Turkey, France, and Brazil reported the most new cases and Brazil, India, Poland, the U.S., and Italy reported the most deaths.

In the past week:

- Nearly 5.2 million new cases and 89,168 deaths were reported.
- India, Brazil, the U.S., Turkey, and France reported the newest cases and Brazil, India, Mexico, the U.S., and Poland reported the most new deaths.

Highlights from Weekly Epidemiological Summary as of April 11, 2021:

- The number of new global COVID-19 cases continued to increase for the seventh consecutive week, with over 4.5 million new weekly cases reported.

- The number of reported new deaths increased for the fourth consecutive week, increasing by 7% 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 April 7, 2021 Partner Update)*

Provincial Updates

The Ontario Government:

- Invests in school infrastructure to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Ontario's vaccination strategy targets high-risk neighbourhoods ([news release](#))
- Moves schools to remote learning following spring break ([news release](#))
- Launches COVID-19 rapid screening pilot program in Waterloo Region ([news release](#))
- Expands COVID-19 vaccination locations to more pharmacies ([news release](#))
- Is supporting health system response during third wave of COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Supports families, businesses, and workers during COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Premier Ford receives AstraZeneca vaccine for COVID-19 ([statement](#))
- Launches workplace inspection campaign in COVID-19 hotspots ([news release](#))

Public Health Ontario published:

- COVID-19 Real-World Vaccine Effectiveness – What We Know So Far ([synthesis](#))
- 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](#))

Other Provincial News:

- Confusion over rollout persists after pledge to vaccinate all adults in hot spots ([article](#))
- ON adding hundreds of ICU beds, does it have the resources to support them? ([article](#))
- Despite a crackdown, workplace-related COVID deaths have accelerated in 2021 ([article](#))
- Complaints made over lockdown rule violations result in dozens of charges ([article](#))
- Front-line workers say they're left out of Ontario's vaccine rollout ([article](#))
- A record number of COVID-19 tests are coming back positive in Ontario ([article](#))
- Hospitals ordered to halt non-emergency surgeries as COVID patients fill ICUs ([article](#))
- Pediatric patients in GTA to be transferred to SickKids to free space in hospitals ([article](#))
- These 'hot spots' getting vaccine priority are less-hard hit than Ontario average ([article](#))
- Doctor urges governments to transfer ICU nurses from other provinces to ON ([article](#))
- Ontario man first Canadian with COVID-destroyed lungs to get double transplant ([article](#))
- Science table recommends limiting use of COVID drug due to supply shortage ([article](#))
- Migrant farm worker COVID-19 vaccine pilot starts at Toronto airport ([article](#))
- Planning, trust led to vaccination success in Northern Ontario First Nations ([article](#))
- Workplace vaccination plan wins praise for Ford – but no action on sick pay ([article](#))

National Updates

The Government of Canada:

- Launches Critical Drug Reserve to bolster supply of drugs to treat COVID ([news release](#))
- Provides update on safety review of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines ([statement](#))
- Invests in better ventilation for schools, hospitals, other public buildings ([news release](#))
- Supports equity in access to learning opportunities for young Canadians ([news release](#))
- COVID-19 update for Indigenous Peoples and communities ([news release](#))
- Statements from the Chief Public Health Officer: [April 8](#), [April 10](#), [April 11](#), [April 12](#), [April 13](#)

Other National News:

- Rare blood clots may be linked to AstraZeneca, but benefits still outweigh risks ([article](#))
- Canada receives first report of blood clot linked to AstraZeneca vaccine ([article](#))
- Migrant farmworkers coming to Canada remain at risk a year into the pandemic ([article](#))
- Hospitalization of 3 vaccinated patients reveals misunderstandings about vaccine ([article](#))
- Why doctors, advocates are calling for permanent paid sick days for Canadians ([article](#))
- Trudeau says Canada 'closely monitoring' J&J vaccine pause in the U.S. ([article](#))
- Critical care COVID-19 cases surpass peak of second wave ([article](#))
- Lockdown fatigue is giving way to protests, defiance across the country ([article](#))
- Canada to receive 1M Pfizer vaccines this week, Moderna playing catch up ([article](#))
- Canadian firm seeks license to produce COVID-19 vaccines for poorer countries ([article](#))
- How parts of Canada are going about vaccinating teachers against COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Researchers want to shift away from health risk and age-based vaccine rollout ([article](#))
- Doctors group says ever-changing restrictions have caused frustration, confusion ([article](#))
- Hospitals running out of key drug for COVID-19 patients ([article](#))
- Canada is losing the race between vaccines and variants as 3rd wave worsens ([article](#))

Global Updates

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Special Focus: Update on SARS-CoV-2 Variants ([Weekly epidemiological update p.4-11](#))
- Director General stresses that “confusion, complacency and inconsistency in public health measures and their application are driving transmission and costing lives... with a concerted effort to apply public health measures alongside equitable vaccination, we could bring this pandemic under control” ([Remarks at April 12 media briefing](#))
- COVAX reaches over 100 economies, 42 days after first delivery ([news release](#))
- Director General highlights vaccine inequities “In high-income countries, almost one in four people have received a vaccine. In low income countries, it’s one in more than 500... we’re continuing to seek donations of doses from countries who have enough to cover their entire population several times over” ([Remarks at April 9 media briefing](#))
- Interim statement on vaccine safety of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine ([statement](#))

Other International News:

- Why the U.S. recommended suspending Johnson & Johnson’s vaccine ([article](#))
- Denmark becomes first country to permanently end use of AstraZeneca vaccine ([article](#))
- Canada’s COVID-19 case rate now tops U.S. rate. Here’s what the experts say ([article](#))
- Vaccine ‘passports’ could be new point of contention at Canada-U.S. border ([article](#))
- ‘Strong association’ between AstraZeneca vaccine and rare blood clots ([article](#))

SMDHU Resources

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

Main COVID

- Posted information about provincial declaration of emergency and stay-at-home order
- Revised messages of advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health in main content
- Added new expander bar on “[Virtual Assistant being used to assist in contact tracing](#)”

Stop the Spread

- Posted information about provincial declaration of emergency and stay-at-home order
- Updated content under “[Close contact, gatherings and events](#)” and “[Travel](#)” expanders bar to reflect updated guidance and restrictions during the provincial shutdown

- Posted revised [Masking FAQ](#) under “[Wearing a face covering in all indoor public spaces](#)”

Vaccine and Immunization

- Added [adult residents 50+ in the L3Z hot spot](#) to the list of groups currently eligible to directly book a vaccination appointment
- Added individuals in the [highest-risk and high-risk health condition categories](#) to the list of groups currently eligible for pre-registration
- Added [residents of a congregate living setting](#) as an eligible group for pre-registration

Operating your Business Safely

- Posted information about the provincial declaration of emergency and stay-at-home order
- Posted revised [Masking FAQ](#) under “[Mandatory face covering in indoor public spaces](#)”
- Revised content and resources under the following expander bars to reflect updated shutdown measures and restrictions:
 - [Resources for all employers and workplaces](#)
 - [Food Operators](#)
 - [Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings](#)
 - [Retail, shopping malls, discount and big box stores, garden centres](#)
 - [Outdoor Recreational Amenities](#)
 - [Taxi and Rideshare Drivers](#)
- Added new expander bar with information and guidance for [marinas and boat clubs](#)

Partners and Municipalities

- Posted information about the provincial declaration of emergency and stay-at-home order
- Revised content under the following expander bars to reflect updated shutdown measures and restrictions:
 - [Farmers' Markets](#)
 - [Food Banks and Donation Centres](#)
 - [Outdoor Recreational Amenities](#)
 - [Places of Worship](#)
 - [Public Washrooms](#)
- Added new expander bar with information and guidance for [community gardens](#)

Enforcement

- Added two new charges issued in the table ‘Summary of SMDHU Enforcement Actions’

New Public Health Alerts:

- **April 8, 2021:** [COVID-19: Update #32 – Revised Local Case & Contact Management Approach: Due to large volumes of cases, not all cases and contacts being reached by Public Health](#)

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](#)