

COVID-19 Update for Partners

June 2, 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

Over 50% of Simcoe Muskoka residents have now received their first vaccine dose

- Although we still have a long road ahead of us as we work toward fully vaccinating most of our population, the continued rollout and expansion of our COVID-19 vaccination program gives us reason to be hopeful. In the last week, we have reached a vaccination milestone, with over 50% of the total Simcoe Muskoka population now vaccinated with their first dose, representing over 326,000 residents. As of June 2, 65% of adults ages 18 and older have received their first dose and 7.9% of adults have been fully vaccinated with two doses.
- Over 7,600 residents ages 12-17 years old, representing about 20% of youth in Simcoe Muskoka, have received their first dose. Additionally, over 11,000 vaccination appointments have been booked for youth in the coming weeks.
- The vaccination uptake in Simcoe Muskoka to date has been tremendously encouraging and we continue to encourage residents to take the first opportunity available to them to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Ultimately, COVID-19 vaccines are a key tool to stop the spread of COVID-19, protect our population, and save lives and each dose administered brings us one step closer to overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 vaccination for youth ages 12-17 years old

- To provide opportunities for vaccination to youth and other eligible individuals who have not yet booked an appointment, we have uploaded thousands of additional community clinic appointments to the provincial booking system as of May 29. While these appointments are available for all ages, we are specifically encouraging youth to book their first vaccination appointment in June. This is in keeping with the province's plan to provide second dose vaccination to youth during the weeks of August 9 and August 16, to ensure they are protected before the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year.
- Youth can book an appointment at any of our community clinics through the provincial [online booking system](#) or Provincial Vaccine Booking Line (1-833-943-3900) as well as at [select pharmacies](#) administering the Pfizer vaccine. Youth ages 12-17 who live, work, or go to school in the hot spot Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury (BWG) can also book an appointment at a BWG-specific clinic through the Town's [website](#). Youth must be 12 years old at the time they are receiving their vaccine.

Second dose administration of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

- Beginning this week, all individuals who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine from March 10 onwards are eligible to receive their second dose at an interval of 12 weeks. This dose interval provides strong protection from COVID-19 and data from the U.K. points to a significantly reduced risk of rare blood clotting events following administration of the second dose.
- Eligible individuals can also choose to wait until an announcement is made on the safety and efficacy of administering a mixed vaccine series. An announcement from the province on this is expected soon.
- As a reminder, the AstraZeneca rollout in pharmacy and primary care is separate from our community clinics, so second dose appointments need to be arranged through these settings and cannot be booked through the health unit or provincial booking system.

Accelerated second dose administration of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines

- **As of May 31, adults ages 80 and older are now eligible to receive their second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine dose at an earlier dose interval of at least 4 weeks.** Please note that this is subject to appointment availability and vaccine supply. Those who have already booked a second dose appointment at one of our clinics can rebook their appointment through the provincial booking system.
- In addition, individuals taking an anti-CD20 agent (an immunosuppressive treatment) are also now eligible to receive their second vaccine dose at an earlier interval, to be decided upon with their treating health care provider. Those in this group can pre-register on the health unit [website](#) or by calling our Vaccine Support Booking Line (705-721-7520 ext. 5997). These individuals will need to provide a letter from their treating health care provider confirming their eligibility at the time of their appointment.
- The province is planning to extend eligibility for early second doses to additional groups in a sequenced fashion over the coming months. Below is the projected schedule for second dose acceleration:

If your first dose was Pfizer or Moderna

Accelerated second doses will be available according to the following schedule.

Starting week	Who is eligible
May 31	People aged 80 and over
June 14	People aged 70 and over
June 28	People who received their first dose between the week of March 8 and April 18
July 19	People who received their first dose between the week of April 19 and May 9
August 2	People who received their first dose between the week of May 10 and May 30
August 9 and 16	People aged 12 to 25
August 9	People who received their first dose from the week of May 31 onwards (respecting the recommended intervals)

Successful pop-up clinic hosted in Coldwater this past weekend

- On May 29, a pop-up immunization clinic was hosted in Coldwater. This clinic was organized by the health unit in collaboration with Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Couchiching Family Health Team, Coldwater Pharmacy, and the Coldwater Lions Club.
- 504 first dose immunizations were administered to adults ages 18 and older at this clinic. Strong partnerships were essential in making the planning, promotion, and implementation of this pop-up clinic a success.

- At this time, there are no further pop-up clinics scheduled. Information about upcoming local pop-up clinics is updated regularly on the health unit's [website](#).

Transitioning from the stay-at-home order to the provincial reopening plan

- The provincial stay-at-home order expired at 12:01 a.m. on June 2. With the lifting of the stay-at-home order, going out for non-essential reasons is no longer considered illegal as has been the case since the order was implemented in early April.
- **It is important to note that the end of the stay-at-home order does not signify the beginning of reopening the province.** While the stay-at-home order has ended, provincewide shutdown measures will remain in place until June 19, 2021. Outdoor gatherings will still be limited to 5 people, indoor gatherings with non-household members remain prohibited, and business operations and capacity limits will remain unchanged until the province moves into Step 1 of its [Roadmap to Reopen](#).
- The province is expected to enter Step 1 of its reopening plan during the week of June 14, 2021. At this time, additional outdoor amenities and services will be permitted to open with capacity limits, outdoor gathering limits will be expanded, and non-essential retail settings will be able to open with capacity limits. Until then, it is important that we all continue to follow the current rules and public health restrictions in place under the provincial shutdown.

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

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of June 2, 2021 14:00)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
11,954	286	11,002	246
<p><u>In the last day:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 people tested positive, 42 people recovered, and there was 1 new death. • There were 28 new variant cases* identified. <p><u>Currently:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been 56 new cases reported to the health unit for the current week. • 25 Simcoe Muskoka residents are hospitalized with COVID-19. • There are 177 active variant cases*. • There are 9 ongoing outbreaks (workplaces: 6, congregate settings: 2, institutional settings: 1), including 6 active outbreaks with known variant cases. <p><u>Since the last Partner Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have reported 203 new cases, 597 recoveries, and 1 new death. • There are 255 fewer active cases compared to the same day last week. • There is no change in the number of outbreaks compared to the same day last week. • During the week of May 23, there were 208 cases reported to the health unit, which was 31% lower than the 303 cases reported the week prior. <p>For more local data, see: SMDHU COVID-19 HealthSTATS page, COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard, Provincial COVID-19 Response Framework – Status of Simcoe Muskoka</p> <p><small>*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.</small></p>			

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccine Data *(As of June 2, 2021 14:00)*

Total first doses administered	Total second doses administered
326,249	39,127

Highlights:

- 40,782 immunizations have been provided since the last Partner Update.
- Over 326,200 people have received their first dose, representing 54% of the population in Simcoe Muskoka. This includes:
 - 26,773 adults 80 years of age and older (94%);
 - 48,332 adults 70-79 years of age (89%);
 - 69,121 adults 60-69 years of age (85%); and,
 - 62,745 adults 50-59 years of age (70%).
- Over 39,100 people have received both required doses of the vaccine, representing 6.5% of the population in Simcoe Muskoka.

Local Media Updates *(Since May 26, 2021 Partner Update)*

- Top doc talks cottage travel, school, and a week free from COVID-related deaths ([article](#))
- Appointments available at upcoming vaccine clinics in Bradford ([article](#))
- For kid's sake, local mental health expert says schools should be reopening ([article](#))
- Gardner urges people to stay the course to avoid a summer setback ([article](#))
- RVH sees highest patient count in ICU with COVID-19, other illnesses ([article](#))
- Gardner doubles down, says it's time to reopen schools ([article](#))
- Top doc commends community following lack of Mother's Day caseload bump ([article](#))
- 'Ramping up is very complex': RVH cautiously resumes non-urgent surgeries ([article](#))
- Pop-up clinic in Coldwater doles out shots with a side of hope ([article](#))
- Anti-vaxxers gather outside Holly vaccination clinic in Barrie ([article](#))
- Good vaccine uptake 'bodes well' for Simcoe Muskoka, says top doc ([article](#))
- Social media campaign shows what RVH workers see dealing with COVID-19 ([article](#))
- COVID-19 vaccine and kids: Local pediatrician shares her thoughts ([article](#))

Provincial, National and Global COVID-19 Case Status

Ontario <i>(As of June 2, 2021, 10:30)</i>			
Total cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
532,891	10,664	513,436	8,791

As of today:

- There were 733 new cases, 1,733 resolved cases, and 25 deaths in the last day.
- There has been a total of 127,645 confirmed cases of the U.K. variant, 952 cases of the South African variant, and 2,911 cases of the Brazilian variant.
- A total of 708 people are hospitalized for COVID-19, 576 people are in intensive care units (ICU) and 399 people are on ventilators.
- There are 363 ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks (workplaces: 146, other settings: 73, congregate living: 54, health care settings: 47, schools and childcares: 43).

Since the last Partner Update:

- There have been 6,846 new cases, 13,796 recoveries, and 113 deaths.
- There are 7,063 fewer active cases compared to the same day last week.
- There are 365 fewer people hospitalized, 96 fewer people in the ICU, and 70 fewer people on ventilators compared to the same day last week.
- The 7-day average number of new daily cases is 978.

Vaccine status:

- A total of 9,342,121 vaccine doses have been administered to date, with 139,901 doses administered yesterday. 58.1% of Ontarians have received their first dose.

Regional updates:

- Areas with the highest number of active cases per 100,000 population: Porcupine (365.79), Peel (174.06), Toronto (117.48), Hamilton (93.5), and Brant (78.55).
- Areas with the highest number of active cases: Toronto (3,209), Peel (2,405), Ottawa (655), York (595), and Hamilton (502).

Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: May 16-22, 2021:

- During the week of May 16, there were 12,621 new cases reported, down from the 16,516 cases reported the week prior.
- While the rate of cases is decreasing in most regions, six health units reported an increase in their case rate during the week of May 16.
- 71.6% of reported cases this week tested positive for a mutation or variant of concern.

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

Canada (As of June 1, 2021 at 19:00 EDT)

Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
1,383,214	31,164	1,326,484	25,566

Yesterday:

- Canada reported 1,641 new cases and 19 new deaths.
- New cases were reported in all provinces and territories except PEI, YT, NWT, and NT.
- New deaths were reported in AB, SK, MB, ON, and QC.

Since the last Partner Update:

- In the last week, 17,698 people tested positive for COVID-19, 242 people died, and 34,158 people recovered.
- There are 16,702 fewer active cases of COVID-19 than there was a week ago.

Between May 17 and May 24, 2021:

- The number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized decreased from 2,314 to 1,945.
- The number of COVID-19 patients in ICU beds decreased from 1,247 to 1,073.
- The number of COVID-19 patients mechanically vented decreased from 751 to 619.

Weekly epidemiology update: May 16-22, 2021:

- New cases decreased by 27% compared to the previous week, with an average of 4,571 new cases reported every day.
- New deaths decreased by 10% compared to the previous week, with an average of 42 deaths reported every day.
- The number of weekly hospitalizations decreased by 13% and the number of weekly cases in the ICU decreased by 6% compared to the week prior.
- Daily case rates remain highest among those 20-39 years of age and lowest among those 80 years and older.
- According to forecasting, between 1,387,210 to 1,426,400 cumulative reported cases and 25,590 to 26,310 cumulated reported deaths are expected by June 10, 2021.

Key vaccine updates as of May 22, 2021:

- 50.60% of the population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, including 61.87% of adults ages 18 and older.
- 4.61% of the population has been fully vaccinated, including 5.69% of adults ages 18 and older.

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

Global (As of June 2, 2021 at 10:53 CET)

Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
170,747,372	3,555,726

In the last day:

- There were 356,061 new cases and 8,607 deaths.
- India, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, and Iran reported the most new cases and India, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, and Russia reported the most deaths.

In the past week:

- Over 3.3 million new cases and 75,246 deaths were reported.
- India, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, and the U.S. reported the most new cases and India, Brazil, the U.S., Argentina, and Colombia reported the most new deaths.

Highlights from Weekly Epidemiological Summary as of June 2, 2021:

- The number of new global cases and deaths continues to decrease, with a 15% decrease in new cases and a 7% decrease in new deaths compared to the week prior.
- Despite the continued downward trend over the past five weeks, global cases and deaths remain at high levels, and significant increases have been reported in many countries in each WHO region.

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

Provincial, National and Global Updates *(Since May 26, 2021 Partner Update)*

Provincial Updates

The Ontario Government:

- Remote learning to continue across Ontario for remainder of school year ([news release](#))
- Maintains COVID-19 restrictions as stay-at-home order is set to expire ([news release](#))
- Mandates immunization policies for long-term care homes ([news release](#))
- To appoint new Chief Medical Officer of Health ([news release](#))
- Accelerates rollout of second shots targeting a two-dose summer ([news release](#))

Public Health Ontario published:

- Updated: Trends of COVID-19 Incidence in Ontario ([surveillance report](#))
- Updated: Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 Following Vaccination in Ontario ([epi summary](#))
- Updated: Adverse Events Following Immunization for COVID-19 ([epi summary](#))
- Updated: COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Ontario ([surveillance report](#))
- Updated: Cases After Vaccination in Long-term Care, Retirement Homes ([epi summary](#))

Other Provincial News:

- Ford hopeful that June 14 target date for reopening plan can be moved up ([article](#))
- All Ontarians could be fully vaccinated by end of August, Ford says ([article](#))
- Ontario 'close' to exiting third wave with lowest daily case count since February ([article](#))

- Meet Ontario's incoming top doctor Kieran Moore, a disease-surveillance guru ([article](#))
- A concerning new variant is threatening to take hold, data shows ([article](#))
- COVID outbreaks at long-term care homes as some staff remain unvaccinated ([article](#))
- From the ER to the ICU, photos reveal the harsh realities of COVID's third wave ([article](#))
- Ford government urged to move up reopening of economy ([article](#))
- Brampton, ON mayor urges province to continue prioritizing COVID-19 hotspots ([article](#))
- When will we know the pandemic is over? Ontario doctors tackle that question ([article](#))
- Will Ontario's reopening plan prevent a fourth wave? Here's what experts say ([article](#))
- How Ontario's reopening plan compares to other provinces ([article](#))

National Updates

The Government of Canada:

- Is extending business support measures through the pandemic ([backgrounder](#))
- COVID-19 update for Indigenous Peoples and communities ([news release](#))
- Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health: Interchangeability of vaccines ([statement](#))
- Extends expiry date of two lots of AstraZeneca vaccine by an extra month ([news release](#))
- Priority strategies to optimize testing and quarantine at Canada's borders ([statement](#))
- Statements from the Chief Public Health Officer: [May 27](#), [May 29](#), [May 30](#), [May 31](#)

Other National News:

- First AstraZeneca dose can be followed by Pfizer or Moderna: advisory group ([article](#))
- Tam urges provinces to be cautious in reopening until more are vaccinated ([article](#))
- Early days in COVID-19 fight marked by lack of focus, wrong data: panel ([article](#))
- Expert panel recommends government end COVID-19 quarantine hotel stay ([article](#))
- Canada double dollars to COVAX, but no sign of donating doses yet ([article](#))
- AstraZeneca expiry change based on science, but communication is key: experts ([article](#))
- Canada launches its first national vaccine injury compensation program ([article](#))
- How many vaccines could make the difference between a 4th wave or no wave? ([article](#))
- For both the vaccine hesitant and refusers, much comes down to a lack of trust ([article](#))
- Those bearing the brunt of Manitoba's COVID crisis are younger, racialized – and often caught the virus at work ([article](#))
- Job losses due to pandemic hit women harder than men, Statscan report says ([article](#))
- Ombudsmen across Canada warn of domestic vaccine passport pitfalls ([article](#))
- Some Canadians falsely assuming Pfizer vaccine more effective than Moderna ([article](#))

Global Updates

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Update on SARS-CoV-2 variants ([Weekly epidemiological update p.4-7](#))
- Early lessons from implementation of vaccination ([Weekly epidemiological update p.8-10](#))
- Announces simple, easy-to-say labels for variants of concern ([departmental news](#))
- WHO and Canada: Working together to end the acute phase of COVID-19 and equipping countries to emerge with stronger, more equitable health systems ([departmental news](#))
- Director General reports that "This pandemic is far from over... Ultimately, the fastest way to bring this pandemic to an end is to dramatically increase global manufacturing of vaccines, tests, treatments, and other medical supplies, and ensure equitable access." ([Remarks at May 28 media briefing](#))
- Recommends measures to protect mental health during health crises ([news release](#))
- Subcommittee reviews cases of mild myocarditis with mRNA vaccines ([statement](#))

Other International News:

- WHO approves Chinese-made Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine ([article](#))
- Variant that emerged in parallel with vaccines poses a different kind of threat ([article](#))

- Why vaccination progress at home risks being undone by variant spread abroad ([article](#))
- Trudeau backs Biden effort to identify origin of COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Canada won't rush reopening border with United States, Trudeau says ([article](#))
- WHO calls for international treaty on pandemic preparedness and response ([article](#))

SMDHU Resources

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

Main COVID-19

- Updated main content to reflect the end of the stay-at-home order
- Posted revised [Class Order for Self-Isolation](#) issued March 27, 2021

Stop the Spread

- Updated guidance for [travel](#), [marinas and boat launches](#), and [hunting and fishing](#)

Getting your Vaccination

- Moved the standby list registration link to the top of the webpage and updated eligibility criteria to reflect that those eligible for a second dose can now sign up to be on this list
- Updated information on COVID-19 vaccine rollout for [youth 12-17 years of age](#)
- Updated information on [hot spot clinics in Bradford West Gwillimbury](#)
- Revised information on the [AstraZeneca rollout](#)
- Updated eligibility criteria for early second doses and information on how to book second dose appointments

Operating your Business Safely

- Updated COVID-19 information and/or guidance documents for:
 - [Day Camps](#)
 - [Food Operators](#)
 - [Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings](#)
 - [Marinas and boat launches](#)
 - [Short-term rentals and shared accommodations](#)

Partners and Municipalities

- Added new expander bar with information and guidance for [public beaches](#)
- Updated COVID-19 information and/or guidance documents for:
 - [Cooling Shelters](#)
 - [Day Camps](#)
 - [Elections](#)
 - [Places of Worship](#)
 - [Public Washrooms](#)

Enforcement

- Added two new charges issued to the 'Summary of SMDHU Enforcement Actions' table

New Public Health Alerts:

- **May 27, 2021:** [COVID-19 Case & Contact Management: Update #32: Changes to control measures for fully immunized individuals](#)
- **May 31, 2021:** [COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #25. Eligibility Open to 12+ and Update on 2nd Dose Interval and Booking](#)

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](#)