

COVID-19 Update for Partners

June 16, 2021

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Key messages from Dr. Gardner, Medical Officer of Health

Updated second dose guidance for those who received the AstraZeneca vaccine

- As of June 14, and in alignment with recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), **Ontarians who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine can now choose to receive a second dose of AstraZeneca or an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) vaccine at an interval of 8 to 12 weeks.**
- NACI has advised that a second-dose interval of 12 weeks provides the highest level of protection against COVID-19, as demonstrated in AstraZeneca clinical trials. However, based on evidence that having two vaccine doses is important for protection against the Delta variant, individuals who received a first dose of AstraZeneca can now choose to receive their second vaccine dose at an earlier interval of, at minimum, 8 weeks provided they give informed consent based on this information.
- Individuals can book their second dose appointment at any location offering the vaccine they wish to receive. Those who wish to receive a second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine can arrange this through the location where they received their first dose.

Guidance on mixing mRNA COVID-19 vaccines to complete a series

- Based on recommendations from NACI, those who received a first dose of an mRNA vaccine should continue to receive the same vaccine for their second dose whenever possible. If the same vaccine is not readily available, another mRNA vaccine can be offered to complete the vaccine series. **Based on this guidance, the health unit will offer a mixed mRNA vaccine series at our clinics when needed, in the context of limited vaccine supply, to ensure that people are not delayed in receiving their second dose when they are eligible.**
- Mixing and matching vaccine products to complete a series is a common immunization practice. In Canada, this practice has been used in the past with immunizations such as Hepatitis A and B, Tetanus, and Meningitis in the context of changing vaccine suppliers and programs.

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

- To provide additional opportunities for youth to get vaccinated, the health unit and our school board partners are offering first dose vaccination clinics for youth ages 12-17

years of age over the next two weeks. Clinic dates and locations are listed on the health unit's [website](#).

- Appointments can be booked through the provincial [online booking system](#) or Provincial Vaccine Booking Line (1-833-943-3900). When youth (ages 12-17) book their first dose, they will be automatically directed to book a second dose appointment at the appropriate interval in August so that they will be fully immunized before the start of the 2021/2022 school year.
- Youth (ages 12-17) can also continue to book an appointment at any of our community clinics as well as at [select pharmacies](#) administering the Pfizer vaccine.

Transition to Step 1 of Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#)

- On June 11, the province moved into Step 1 of its [Roadmap to Reopen](#). There is no doubt that this transition toward reopening has come as welcome news to many. With declining case counts, hospitalizations, and deaths, rising vaccination rates, the opportunity for many businesses to reopen under [Ontario Regulation 82/20](#), and the ability to safely participate in more outdoor activities, we have many reasons to be hopeful. At the same time, it is important to remember that this transition to Step 1 does not signify a full reopening of the province.
- We have made great progress in bringing the third wave under control and we all want to see this progress continue. For this to happen, it is important that everyone, regardless of their vaccination status, follow the restrictions and guidelines in place under Step 1 of the province's reopening plan. This includes:
 - Abiding by the outdoor gathering limit of 10 people and avoiding indoor gatherings with non-household members.
 - Maintaining 2-metres physical distance from everyone outside your household, indoors and outdoors, and wearing a face covering when this distance cannot be maintained.
 - Wearing a face covering in all indoor public spaces.
 - Staying home and getting tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19.

New sociodemographic information available on our COVID-19 HealthSTATS [webpage](#)

- A new sociodemographic information expander bar has been added to our HealthSTATS COVID-19 Immunizations [webpage](#). The purpose of this is to illustrate how factors such as sex and neighbourhood diversity have impacted rates of vaccine coverage locally. This local data helps us determine who needs additional supports and where to direct vaccines. Some key findings include that:
 - COVID-19 vaccine coverage rates are higher among females than males.
 - First dose vaccine coverage is higher in areas with the least material deprivation compared to areas with the highest level of material deprivation.
 - Vaccine coverage rates are generally lower in areas with more ethno-cultural diversity. One exception to this is that people living in areas with the greatest diversity had similar coverage rates as those living in areas with the second lowest level of diversity. This may be attributed to increased vaccination resources and opportunities provided in Bradford West Gwillimbury.
- The health unit has worked to prioritize vaccination for key populations identified by the province in all phases of our vaccine rollout. In particular, we have collaborated with our Indigenous partners to promote and provide opportunities for vaccination among the Indigenous population. While other racialized populations have not been specifically identified in the provincial rollout, racialized populations have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka and may face systemic barriers to accessing vaccination, they are a priority for vaccination. To address this, we are engaging with leaders from impacted populations to inform our local vaccination efforts.

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

| Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of June 16, 2021 14:00) | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------|--------|
| Total Cases | Active Cases | Recovered | Deaths |
| 12,172 | 135 | 11,370 | 246 |
| <p><u>In the last day:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 people tested positive, 16 people recovered, there was no new hospitalizations, and there were no new deaths. <p><u>Currently:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been 20 new cases reported to the health unit for the current week. 23 Simcoe Muskoka residents are hospitalized with COVID-19. There are 87 active variant cases*. There are 6 ongoing outbreaks (congregate settings: 3, workplaces: 2, community settings: 1), including 5 active outbreaks with known variant cases. <p><u>Since the last Partner Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have reported 70 new cases, 159 recoveries, and no new deaths. There are 85 fewer active cases compared to the same day last week. There are 3 fewer active outbreaks compared to the same day last week. During the week of June 6, there were 94 new cases reported to the health unit, which was 38% lower than the 152 cases reported the week prior. <p>For more local data, see: SMDHU COVID-19 HealthSTATS page and COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard</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 16, 2021 14:00) | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Total first doses administered | Total second doses administered |
| 377,308 | 73,409 |
| <p><u>Highlights:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42,527 immunizations have been provided since the last Partner Update. Over 377,300 people have received their first dose, representing 62% of the total population and 73% of adults ages 18 and older in Simcoe Muskoka. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 213,883 adults 50 years of age and older (84%); 144,490 adults 18-49 years of age (60%); and, 18,911 youth 12-17 years of age (48%). Over 73,400 people have received both required doses of the vaccine, representing 12.1% of the total population and 14.8% of adults 18 and older in Simcoe Muskoka. | |

| Local Media Updates (Since June 9, 2021 Partner Update) |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health welcomes reopening but urges caution in Simcoe Muskoka (article) Feds provide funding to help health unit run COVID-19 self-isolation sites (article) Over 60 percent of Simcoe Muskoka residents have now received a COVID shot (article) Months after deadly outbreak, Roberta Place staff are still healing and recovering (article) Bradford puts forward motion to allow for gyms, personal care services to reopen (article) Cash prizes up for grabs for vaccinated workers at Alliston senior home (article) |

- Georgian College joins 'Faster Together' to urge students to get vaccine ([article](#))
- Orillia Chamber, United Way team up to provide free PPE to local businesses ([article](#))
- Muskoka schools plan for September, over 600 students choose to learn online ([article](#))

| Provincial, National and Global COVID-19 Case Status | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------|--------|
| Ontario (As of June 16, 2021, 10:30) | | | |
| Total cases | Active Cases | Recovered | Deaths |
| 540,810 | 4,662 | 527,162 | 8,986 |
| <p><u>As of today:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 384 new cases, 722 resolved cases, and 12 deaths in the last day. • The total confirmed variant of concern cases in Ontario are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lineage B.1.1.7 (Alpha variant): 141,106 ○ Lineage B.1.351 (Beta variant): 1,141 ○ Lineage P.1 (Gamma variant): 4,156 ○ Lineage B.1.617.2 (Delta variant): 497 • A total of 438 people are hospitalized for COVID-19, 377 people are in intensive care units (ICU), and 242 people are on ventilators. • A total of 11,732,414 vaccine doses have been administered. 64.7% of all Ontarians and 73.7% of those ages 12 and older have received their first vaccine dose. 14.9% of all Ontarians and 17% of those ages 12 and older have been fully vaccinated. • There are 171 ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks (workplaces: 67, other settings: 37, congregate living: 27, schools and childcares: 21, health care settings: 19). <p><u>Since the last Partner Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been 3,323 new cases, 5,419 recoveries, and 66 deaths. • There are 2,161 fewer active cases compared to the same day last week. • There are 133 fewer people hospitalized, 89 fewer people in the ICU, and 72 fewer people on ventilators compared to the same day last week. • The 7-day average number of new daily cases is 475. <p><u>Regional updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas with the highest number of active cases per 100,000 population: Porcupine (402.61), Waterloo (89.13), Peel (48.63), Brant (43.72), and Niagara (43.31). • Areas with the highest number of active cases: Toronto (1,119), Peel (672), Waterloo (477), Porcupine (339), and Ottawa (318). <p><u>Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: May 30-June 5, 2021:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the week of May 30, there were 5,207 new cases reported, which represented a 33% decrease compared to the 7,774 cases reported the week prior. • With a weekly rate of 35 cases per 100,000 population, this was the first week since mid-October where the provincial weekly case rate has been under 40. • 62.7% of reported cases this week tested positive for a mutation or variant of concern. <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 June 15, 2021 at 19:00 EDT) | | | |
| Total Cases | Active Cases | Recovered | Deaths |
| 1,404,093 | 14,923 | 1,363,198 | 25,972 |
| | | | |

Yesterday:

- Canada reported 809 new cases and 30 new deaths.
- New cases were reported in all provinces and territories except PEI, NWT, and NT.
- New deaths were reported in AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, and YT.

Since the last Partner Update:

- In the last week, 8,683 people tested positive for COVID-19, 181 people died, and 15,118 people recovered.
- There are 6,616 fewer active cases of COVID-19 than there was a week ago.

Key vaccine updates as of June 16, 2021:

- 65.1% of the population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, including 74.6% of those ages 12 and older.
- 14.4% of the population has been fully vaccinated, including 16.5% of those ages 12 and older.

Between May 31 and June 7, 2021:

- The number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized decreased from 1,502 to 1,242.
- The number of COVID-19 patients in ICU beds decreased from 896 to 686.
- The number of COVID-19 patients mechanically vented decreased from 509 to 401.

Weekly epidemiology update: May 30-June 5, 2021:

- New cases decreased by 31% compared to the previous week, with an average of 2,057 new cases reported every day.
- New deaths decreased by 17% compared to the previous week, with an average of 34 deaths reported every day.
- The number of weekly hospitalizations decreased by 20% and the number of weekly cases in the ICU decreased by 16% compared to the week prior.
- Variants of concern represented approximately 60% of reported cases from mid-April to mid-May 2021.
- According to forecasting, between 1,399,990 to 1,414,670 cumulative reported cases and 25,900 to 26,360 cumulated reported deaths are expected by June 20, 2021.

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

| Global (As of June 16, 2021 at 10:50 CET) | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Confirmed Cases | Confirmed Deaths |
| 176,156,662 | 3,815,486 |

In the last day:

- There were 292,499 new cases and 8,082 deaths.
- India, Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, and Russia reported the most new cases and the most new deaths.

In the past week:

- Over 2.5 million new cases and 72,833 deaths were reported.
- India, Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, and the U.S. reported the most new cases and India, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, and Russia reported the most new deaths.

Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: June 7-13, 2021:

- During the week of June 7, there were over 2.6 million new cases reported, which represented an 11% decrease compared to the week prior and the lowest weekly case count since February 2021.

- There was a 2% decrease in new deaths reported compared to the week prior. While the number of new deaths continues to decline, global mortality remains high with over 10,000 new deaths each day. In addition, many countries are struggling with access to vaccines, the spread of emerging variants, and overburdened healthcare systems.

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

Provincial, National and Global Updates *(Since June 9, 2021 Partner Update)*

Provincial Updates

The Ontario Government:

- Releases plan for safe return to sport ([news release](#))
- Accelerates second doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine ([news release](#))
- Thanks Canadian health care heroes ([statement](#))
- Is extending temporary wage increase for Personal Support Workers ([news release](#))
- Further accelerates second doses in Delta hot spots ([news release](#))

Public Health Ontario published:

- Updated: COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake and Program Impact in Ontario ([surveillance report](#))
- Updated: Variants of Concern in Ontario ([surveillance report](#))
- Updated: Trends of COVID-19 Incidence in Ontario ([surveillance report](#))
- Updated: Comparing Sars-CoV-2 Variants of Concern ([fact sheet](#))

Other Provincial News:

- Delta variant rising, but vaccines offer better protection than previously thought ([article](#))
- COVID-19 outbreak infects 138 children in remote Northern Ontario First Nation ([article](#))
- Frustration in Ontario over lack of spots for 2nd COVID-19 vaccinations ([article](#))
- Ontario set to expand access to mixed mRNA doses ([article](#))
- Ontario to reopen borders with Quebec and Manitoba ([article](#))
- Ontario hair salons seek earlier reopening ([article](#))
- Northern Ontario health unit locked down for two weeks due to Delta variant ([article](#))
- Wealthiest areas ahead on 2nd doses as vulnerable communities play catch-up ([article](#))
- 'Much better summer': ON cases to keep declining, but vigilance is necessary ([article](#))
- Ontario moving up 2nd shots for some residents in 7 delta variant hot spots ([article](#))

National Updates

The Government of Canada:

- Launches *Ask the Experts* campaign to encourage vaccine uptake ([news release](#))
- Update on J&J vaccines made with drug substance at Emergent BioSolutions ([statement](#))
- Announces funding for COVID-19 Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites in Barrie ([news release](#))
- COVID-19 update for Indigenous Peoples and communities ([news release](#))
- Statements from the Chief Public Health Officer: [June 10](#), [June 12](#), [June 13](#), [June 14](#), [June 16](#)

Other National News:

- Canada plans to redirect 13 million vaccine doses to low-income countries ([article](#))
- How Canada rose to the top for 1st doses of COVID-19 vaccine ([article](#))
- Canada's vaccine targets based on models before Delta variant was well known ([article](#))
- Amid 'diminishing demand' for first doses, AB unveils three \$1M vaccine lotteries ([article](#))
- Canada paid a premium to get vaccine doses from Pfizer earlier than planned ([article](#))
- Canadian business leaders demand plan to reopen borders, economy now ([article](#))

- How the COVID-19 pandemic lowered life expectancy in Canada last year ([article](#))
- Canada to receive 9.5M vaccines this week; huge shipment from Moderna ([article](#))
- 10 people connected to Delta variant outbreak in Calgary were fully vaccinated ([article](#))
- Vaccine questions answered: dose mixing, life after the vaccine, and more ([article](#))
- Immigrant COVID-19 deaths early in pandemic twice that of other Canadians ([article](#))
- Treatment for post-vaccine blood clots show promise, Canadian doctors say ([article](#))
- Doctors call for Canada to adopt airborne transmission protocols for COVID-19 ([article](#))

Global Updates

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Special Focus: Update on SARS-CoV-2 variants ([Weekly epidemiological update](#) p.6-8)
- Director General continues to emphasize the need for equitable vaccine distribution: “Evidence suggests new variants have substantially increased transmission globally. That means the risks have increased for people who are not protected, which is most of the world’s population... There are enough doses of vaccines globally to drive down transmission and save many lives, if they are used in the right places, for the right people.” ([Remarks at June 14 media briefing](#))
- Young people and COVID-19: Considerations for promoting safe behaviours ([article](#))
- Welcomes commitment of 870 million vaccine doses and calls for more investment in all tools to end the pandemic ([news release](#))
- How COVID-19 vaccines are regulated for safety and effectiveness ([statement](#))

Other International News:

- Study suggests vaccines preventing hospitalizations from Delta variant in Britain ([article](#))
- Concerns grow over risk of rare heart condition from vaccine in young men ([article](#))
- Novavax says large study shows its COVID-19 shot is highly effective ([article](#))
- U.S. drug regulator details failures at vaccine plant that led to tossing doses ([article](#))
- Britain to delay easing COVID-19 restrictions due to emergence of Delta variant ([article](#))
- Next steps on Canada-U.S. border reopening will likely be revealed on Monday ([article](#))

SMDHU Resources

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

Main COVID-19

- Updated main content to reflect that the province has now moved into Step 1 of its [Roadmap to Reopen](#)
- Added new expander bar with information on [Simcoe Muskoka Voluntary Isolation Site](#)

Stop the Spread

- Updated content under the following expander bars to reflect current restrictions under Step 1 of Ontario’s [Roadmap to Reopen](#):
 - [Close contact, gatherings, and events](#)
 - [Marinas and boat launches](#)
 - [Hunting and fishing](#)
 - [How to attend a wedding, funeral or other religious ceremony safely](#)

Getting your Vaccination

- Updated main content to reflect that those who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine can now receive their second vaccine dose at an interval of 8 to 12 weeks
- Added new expander bar with information on upcoming [youth-focused clinics](#)
- Updated information on [hot spot clinics in Bradford West Gwillimbury](#) to reflect that hot spot clinics have now ended

- Added information on [submitting out of province immunization documents](#)

Operating your Business Safely

- Updated information and guidance documents under the following expander bars:
 - [Resources for all employers and workplaces](#)
 - [Mandatory face covering in indoor public spaces](#)
 - [Day Camps](#)
 - [Food Operators](#)
 - [Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings](#)
 - [Landlords and Property Managers](#)
 - [Marinas and boat launches](#)
 - [Outdoor Recreational Amenities](#)
 - [Recreational Camps](#)
 - [Recreational Water Facilities](#)
 - [Retail \(essential and non-essential\) and shopping malls](#)
 - [Short-Term Rentals & Shared Rental Accommodations](#)
 - [Taxi and Rideshare Drivers](#)

Partners and Municipalities

- Updated information and guidance documents under the following expander bars:
 - [Public Beaches](#)
 - [Community Gardens](#)
 - [Cooling Shelters](#)
 - [Day Camps](#)
 - [Election Guidance](#)
 - [Farmers' Markets](#)
 - [Food Banks and Donation Centres](#)
 - [Outdoor Recreational Amenities](#)
 - [Places of Worship](#)
 - [Shelter Services](#)

Enforcement

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

New Public Health Alerts:

- **June 10, 2021:** [COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #27: Youth Vaccination Clinics, Mixing Vaccines to Complete a Series, Documentation of Vaccinations Received Out of Province and Reports of Myocarditis/Pericarditis After COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

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](#)