

## COVID-19 Update for Partners

July 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

#### **Expanded early second dose eligibility and options for COVID-19 vaccination**

- All Ontarians ages 12 and older who received an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) for their first dose are now eligible to book or rebook their second dose appointment at an earlier interval of at least 28 days. Those who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine can continue to book their second dose at an interval of 8-12 weeks.
- We strongly encourage residents who have not yet been vaccinated or who are now eligible to receive their second dose to do so as soon as possible to protect themselves and our community from a potential fourth wave of COVID-19 caused by the Delta variant. There are several options for vaccination in Simcoe Muskoka:
  - Appointments can be booked at our community clinics through the provincial [online booking system](#) or Provincial Vaccine Booking Line (1-833-943-3900).
  - **Our community clinics are now offering more opportunities for Simcoe Muskoka residents to walk in and receive their first or second vaccine dose without an appointment.** At this time, priority for walk-ins is being given to those who have not yet had their first dose or those who received their first dose on or before May 1. Residents are encouraged to come dressed for the weather as they may be required to wait outdoors for a short time before entering the clinic. If anyone is unable to wait outside, they can let our staff know and we will bring them inside to wait. **Please check our social media channels regularly as we are posting daily about any clinics that are offering walk-in appointments.**
  - Residents can sign up to be on the health unit's vaccine [standby list](#) daily, starting at 8am. This standby list will soon be phased out as opportunities for walk-in appointments increase.
  - Vaccination appointments can be booked directly at a [participating pharmacy](#).
  - Primary care providers participating in our local vaccine rollout continue to reach out to eligible patients directly to book appointments based on vaccine supply.

#### **Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines**

- The public is reminded of the importance of completing their COVID-19 vaccine series with a second dose of vaccine, in any approved combination, as soon as they are eligible and within the recommended interval. Full vaccination is particularly important to ensure maximum protection against the aggressive Delta variant which is now becoming the

dominant strain of COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka and Ontario. **The best vaccine for your second dose is the first vaccine that is available to you.**

- Adults ages 18 and older who received an mRNA vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer) for their first dose can safely receive either Moderna or Pfizer for their second dose. Mixing and matching these vaccines is safe, provides strong protection against COVID-19 and its variants, and enables more people to receive their second dose sooner.
- Individuals who received AstraZeneca for their first dose can safely receive Moderna, Pfizer, or AstraZeneca for their second dose. In fact, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) now recommends that an mRNA vaccine is preferred as the second dose for those who received a first dose of AstraZeneca.
- The health unit offers both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines at our community clinics. While mixing and matching COVID-19 vaccine products is safe, we do our best to provide the same vaccine for an individual's first and second dose. We cannot guarantee in advance which vaccine will be available for an individual to receive at their appointment time. Our clinic staff are available on-site to answer any questions people may have.

#### **Update on very rare adverse events of heart inflammation linked to mRNA vaccines**

- A small number of cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and/or pericarditis (inflammation of the lining around the heart) have been reported following immunization with the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in Canada and internationally. Internationally, cases have been reported more frequently in those under 30 years of age, more often in males than in females, and more frequently after a second dose. The majority of cases have been mild, and individuals have fully recovered quickly.
- NACI continues to strongly recommend that a complete mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series should be offered to all eligible individuals. These vaccines provide strong protection against COVID-19 infection and symptomatic disease, including severe illness, hospitalization, and death. The significant benefits of vaccination outweigh the very rare risk of adverse events.
- Through the health unit's informed consent approach, people who are offered an mRNA vaccine are advised of the very rare risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis and to seek immediate medical attention if they develop any symptoms following vaccination, such as chest pain, shortness of breath, or the feeling of a fast, pounding, or fluttering heartbeat.
- As a precaution, NACI recommends that individuals who experienced myocarditis and/or pericarditis after a first dose of a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should wait to receive a second dose until more information is available.
- Additional information on COVID-19 vaccine safety and reported side effects following vaccination can be found on Health Canada's [website](#).

#### **Guidance for safely planning events and Step 3 approvals**

- Guidance on how to safely organize and attend an outdoor or indoor event during Step 2 of the [Reopening Ontario Roadmap](#) is available on the health unit's [website](#).
- The outdoor gathering limit is 25 persons. Drive-by events are restricted to the concert venues, theatres, and cinemas in association with these events. Please contact your municipality and the health unit if you are proposing a special event for over 25 people to ensure that you are adhering to the provincial regulations.
- At this time, we cannot approve special events or business for Step 3 as we do not have a regulation from the province to do so.

#### **National guidance for fully immunized Canadians**

- On June 25, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) released [new guidance](#) for vaccinated Canadians and indicated that being fully vaccinated affords individuals a substantial amount of protection against COVID-19. We continue to encourage those who have not yet completed their two-dose vaccine cycle to ensure they do so.

- The new PHAC guidelines reduce the requirement to follow several COVID-19 prevention measures with the caveat that **this new guidance is superseded by local and provincial health advice as it better reflects community risk levels**. PHAC also acknowledges that individuals at greater risk of more severe disease or outcomes should continue to follow existing health protection measures to provide additional protection, including masking and physical distancing.
- We expect further guidance from the province soon as more Ontarians become fully vaccinated and reopening continues to be successful. Until then, it is important for everyone, regardless of their vaccination status, to follow the restrictions and public health measures in place under the [Reopening Ontario Roadmap](#) to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Under Step 2, this includes:
  - Abiding by the outdoor gathering limit of 25 people and the indoor gathering limit of 5 people,
  - Maintaining 2-metres physical distance from those outside of your household,
  - Wearing a mask indoors and outdoors when physical distancing is not possible as well as in all indoor public spaces,
  - Staying home and getting tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19, and,
  - Washing your hands regularly.

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

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of July 7, 2021 14:00)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
12,305	55	11,577	251
<p><u>In the last day:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 people became cases, 6 people recovered, and there were no new hospitalizations or deaths.</li> </ul> <p><u>Currently:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been 9 new cases reported to the health unit for the current week.</li> <li>• 10 Simcoe Muskoka residents are hospitalized with COVID-19.</li> <li>• There are 30 active variant cases*.</li> <li>• There is 1 active outbreak in a workplace setting with no known variant cases.</li> <li>• There has been a total of 70 confirmed cases of the Delta variant in Simcoe Muskoka.</li> </ul> <p><u>Since the last Partner Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have reported 30 new cases, 45 recoveries, and no new deaths.</li> <li>• There are 15 fewer active cases compared to the same day last week.</li> <li>• There is the same number of active outbreaks compared to the same day last week.</li> <li>• During the week of June 27, there were 36 new cases reported to the health unit, which was 10% lower than the 40 cases reported the week prior.</li> </ul> <p>For more local data, see: SMDHU <a href="#">COVID-19 HealthSTATS page</a> and <a href="#">COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard</a></p>			
<p>*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.</p>			

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

Total # immunized with first dose	Total # immunized with second dose
398,219	214,422

### Highlights:

- 52,084 immunizations have been provided since the last Partner Update.
- Over 398,200 Simcoe Muskoka residents have received their first dose, representing 66% of the total population and 75% of those ages 12 and older. This includes:
  - 219,203 adults 50 years of age and older (86%);
  - 155,740 adults 18-49 years of age (65%); and,
  - 23,263 youth 12-17 years of age (60%).
- Over 214,400 people have received both required doses of the vaccine, representing 35.5% of the total population and 40.4% of those 12 and older in Simcoe Muskoka.

## Local Media Updates *(Since June 30, 2021 Partner Update)*

- Simcoe Muskoka top doc continues to forewarn of another COVID-19 wave ([article](#))
- Health unit 'hard-pressed' to administer high volume of COVID vaccines arriving ([article](#))
- When is it safe for vaccinated Simcoe Muskoka grandparents to hug grandkids? ([article](#))
- For first time in 9 months, no new COVID-19 cases reported in Barrie ([article](#))
- COVID-19 assessment centre moving to make way for recreation in Orillia ([article](#))
- Orillia hospital gets \$3.3M to address COVID-19 challenges, surgical backlogs ([article](#))

## Provincial, National and Global COVID-19 Case Status

### Ontario *(As of July 7, 2021, 10:30)*

Total cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
546,411	1,841	535,346	9,224

### As of today:

- There were 194 new cases, 236 resolved cases, and no deaths in the last day.
- The total confirmed variant of concern cases in Ontario are as follows:
  - Lineage B.1.1.7 (Alpha variant): 144,338
  - Lineage B.1.351 (Beta variant): 1,420
  - Lineage P.1 (Gamma variant): 4,650
  - Lineage B.1.617.2 (Delta variant): 2,222
- A total of 201 people are hospitalized with COVID-19, 220 people are in intensive care units (ICU) due to COVID-related critical illness, and 155 people are on ventilators.
- A total of 16,126,179 vaccine doses have been administered. 68.0% of all Ontarians and 77.8% of those ages 12 and older have received their first vaccine dose. 41.0% of all Ontarians and 47.0% of those ages 12 and older have been fully vaccinated.
- There are 89 ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks in Ontario (workplaces: 29, other settings: 21, health care settings: 18, congregate living: 13, schools and childcares: 8).

### Since the last Partner Update:

- There have been 1,514 new cases, 1,874 recoveries, and 56 deaths.
- There are 416 fewer active cases compared to the same day last week.
- There are 50 fewer people hospitalized, 51 fewer people in the ICU, and 26 fewer people on ventilators compared to the same day last week.
- The 7-day average number of new daily cases is 216.

Regional updates:

- Areas with the highest number of active cases per 100,000 population: Waterloo (56.06), Porcupine (49.88), Grey Bruce (43.68), North Bay (22.61), and Niagara (18.31).
- Areas with the highest number of active cases: Toronto (342), Waterloo (300), Grey Bruce (195), Peel (157), and Halton (88).

Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: June 20-26, 2021:

- During the week of June 20, there were 1,899 new cases reported, which represented a 21% decrease compared to the 2,418 cases reported the week prior.
- COVID-19 case rates in Ontario have now been declining for over ten consecutive weeks. Previously, the largest week-over-week decrease in provincial case rates lasted only six weeks.

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 July 6, 2021 at 19:00 EDT)

Total Cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
1,418,080	5,478	1,386,221	26,381

Yesterday:

- Canada reported 445 new cases and 13 new deaths.
- New cases were reported in all provinces and territories except NL, NB, NWT, and NT.
- New deaths were reported in AB, SK, MB, and ON.

Since the last Partner Update:

- In the last week, 3,344 people tested positive for COVID-19, 108 people died, and 5,205 people recovered.
- There are 1,969 fewer active cases of COVID-19 than there was a week ago.

Key vaccine updates as of July 7, 2021:

- 68.2% of the population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, including 78.3% of those ages 12 and older.
- 37.8% of the population has been fully vaccinated, including 43.4% of those ages 12 and older.

Between June 21 and June 28, 2021:

- The number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized decreased from 696 to 595.
- The number of COVID-19 patients in ICU beds decreased from 471 to 376.
- The number of COVID-19 patients mechanically vented decreased from 282 to 241.

Weekly epidemiology report: June 20-26, 2021:

- New cases decreased by 34% compared to the previous week, with an average of 667 new cases reported every day.
- New deaths decreased by 25% compared to the previous week, with an average of 15 deaths reported every day.
- The number of weekly hospitalizations decreased by 28% and the number of weekly cases in the ICU decreased by 20% compared to the week prior.
- According to forecasting, between 1,416,350 to 1,422,005 cumulative reported cases and 26,300 to 26,605 cumulative reported deaths are expected by July 11, 2021.

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

<b>Global</b> (As of July 7, 2021 at 11:32 CET)	
<b>Confirmed Cases</b>	<b>Confirmed Deaths</b>
184,105,272	3,988,565
<p><u>In the last day:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There were 346,126 new cases and 6,553 deaths.</li><li>• India, Indonesia, the U.K., Colombia, and Russia reported the most new cases and Russia, Indonesia, Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia reported the most new deaths.</li></ul> <p><u>In the past week:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Over 2.7 million new cases and 54,313 deaths were reported.</li><li>• Brazil, India, Colombia, Indonesia, and the U.K. reported the most new cases and Brazil, India, Russia, Colombia, and Indonesia reported the most new deaths.</li></ul> <p><u>Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: June 28-July 4, 2021:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• After a global decline in new cases for seven consecutive weeks, there has been a slight increase in new weekly cases reported in the last two weeks, with over 2.6 million new cases reported during the weeks of June 21 and June 28. During the week of June 28, cases increased in all WHO Regions except the Americas.</li><li>• During the week of June 28, there were just under 54,000 deaths reported, which represented a 7% decrease compared to the week prior and the lowest weekly mortality figure since early October 2020.</li></ul> <p>For more international data, see: <a href="#">WHO COVID-19 Disease Dashboard</a> and <a href="#">Weekly Epidemiological and Operational Updates</a></p>	

## Provincial, National and Global Updates *(Since June 30, 2021 Partner Update)*

### **Provincial Updates**

#### The Ontario Government:

- Youth aged 12-17 across Ontario eligible for accelerated second dose ([news release](#))

#### Public Health Ontario published:

- Updated: Real-World Vaccine Effectiveness – What We Know So Far ([synthesis](#))
- Updated: Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 Following Vaccination in Ontario ([report](#))
- Updated: Vaccine Uptake and Program Impact in Ontario ([report](#))
- Updated: Adverse Events Following Immunization for COVID-19 in Ontario ([report](#))
- Updated: Estimating the Prevalence and Growth of Variants in Ontario ([report](#))
- Updated: Trends of COVID-19 Incidence in Ontario ([epi summary](#))

#### Other Provincial News:

- Exact details of Ontario's Step 3 of reopening still being worked out: Elliott ([article](#))
- Ontario sees no new COVID-19 deaths for first time in 9 months ([article](#))
- Hamilton shutting down 2 COVID-19 testing sites as cases, outbreaks fall ([article](#))
- Top doctor says youth vaccination rates must pick up ahead of school resuming ([article](#))
- McMaster team closes in on cause of rare blood clots related to AstraZeneca ([article](#))
- Young adults falling behind getting COVID-19 shots ([article](#))
- Education minister confident most students will be back in schools in September ([article](#))
- Ontario's top doctor issues a 'call for arms' to get vaccinated ([article](#))
- Sunnybrook begins dismantling its field hospital amid dwindling case counts ([article](#))



- New ON study finds one vaccine dose provides strong protection against variants ([article](#))
- Ford commits to keeping pandemic pay hike for PSWs ([article](#))

### ***National Updates***

#### The Government of Canada:

- Funds new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in Canada ([news release](#))
- Fully vaccinated travellers benefit from reduced public health measures ([news release](#))
- COVID-19 update for Indigenous Peoples and communities ([news release](#))
- Statements from the Chief Public Health Officer: [July 2](#), [July 6](#), [July 7](#)

#### Other National News:

- First dose vaccinations plateau, threatening path to variant resilience in Canada ([article](#))
- Why Delta means some Canadians more 'at risk' from COVID than ever before ([article](#))
- Second dose struggles: immune response more intense than 1<sup>st</sup> dose for some ([article](#))
- Eleven cases of Lambda variant confirmed in Canada: What you need to know ([article](#))
- At least 1.3 million Canadians opted to mix COVID-19 vaccines by end of June ([article](#))
- Canada ships vaccines to countries where vaccines are scarce ([article](#))
- When will children under 12 be vaccinated against COVID-19? ([article](#))
- Vaccine passports ignite debate over privacy vs. public health ([article](#))
- Trudeau says Canada set to fully vaccinate all eligible by end of summer ([article](#))
- Will third doses of vaccines be necessary for immunocompromised people? ([article](#))
- Canadians embrace return to activities as COVID-19 restrictions ease ([article](#))
- Masks are coming off in parts of Canada, is it too soon? ([article](#))
- COVID-19 spike in Yukon shows need for full vaccination, Trudeau, says ([article](#))

### ***Global Updates***

#### The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Special Focus: Update on SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern ([Weekly epi update](#) p.5-12)
- Recommends life-saving COVID-19 treatment, urges producers to increase access ([news release](#))
- Director General emphasizes the need for vaccine equity to end of the pandemic:  
"Variants are currently winning the race against vaccines because of inequitable vaccine production and distribution, which also threatens the global economic recovery. It didn't have to be this way and it doesn't have to be this way going forward. From a moral, epidemiological, or economic point of view, now is the time for the world to come together to tackle this pandemic collectively." (Remarks at [July 7 media briefing](#))
- Joint COVAX statement on the equal recognition of vaccines ([statement](#))
- First meeting of the task force on COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics for developing countries ([statement](#))

#### Other International News:

- AstraZeneca 94% protective against death in those 65+: Public Health England ([article](#))
- Pfizer vaccine protection takes a hit as Delta variant spreads: Israeli government ([article](#))
- Japan considers ban on Olympic spectators as Tokyo plans state of emergency ([article](#))
- On Independence Day, Biden calls for vaccinations to end COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Driven by Delta variant, COVID-19 surges across Africa ([article](#))
- Delta surges in Asia, some countries tighten restrictions as vaccination stays low ([article](#))

## SMDHU Resources

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

### Main COVID-19

- Updated content under “[I am a close contact of a person who recently tested positive for COVID-19](#)” expander bar

### Operating your Business Safely

- Posted new FAQ resource for [Recreational camps](#)

### **New Public Health Alerts:**

- **July 5, 2021:** [COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #30: Everyone 12+ Now Eligible for Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Myocarditis/Pericarditis Update](#)

### **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](#)