

COVID-19 Update for Partners

July 21, 2021

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Key messages from Dr. Gardner, Medical Officer of Health

Increasing availability of walk-in vaccination appointments

- Our community vaccination clinics continue to offer more opportunities for Simcoe Muskoka residents ages 12 years and older to walk in and receive their first or second COVID-19 vaccine dose without an appointment. **All of our mass immunization clinics are now allowing residents to walk in to receive their first vaccine dose.**
- A schedule that outlines which of our clinics are able to offer second dose walk-in appointments for the upcoming week is available on the health unit's [website](#). This schedule is posted on Mondays at noon and updated throughout the week as needed. We continue to post daily on our social media channels about any clinics that have the capacity to offer second dose walk-in appointments as well. Eligibility criteria for these walk-in appointments is as follows:
 - Walk-ins are for those who have a primary or secondary residence and/or who receive their health care in Simcoe Muskoka.
 - Those who received an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) for their first dose can walk in to receive their second dose at a participating clinic if it has been at least 28 days since they received their first vaccine dose.
 - Individuals who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine can walk in to receive a second dose of an mRNA vaccine if it has been 8-12 weeks since the date of their first dose.
 - Walk-in appointments will be available while supplies last.
- 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. We are doing our best to minimize wait times and move lines indoors when we can. If anyone is unable to wait outside, they can let our staff know and we will bring them inside to wait.

Residents not yet vaccinated encouraged to step up to receive their first vaccine dose

- While we have made great progress in vaccinating the Simcoe Muskoka population, we still have a way to go. Our goal is to get beyond the province's Step 3 target of 80% of the eligible population ages 12 and older vaccinated with one dose and 75% of those eligible fully vaccinated with two doses.
- As of July 20, 77% of eligible residents ages 12 and older have received their first dose, and 56% of those eligible have received their second dose. This leaves 23% of eligible

residents who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine dose. In particular, the health unit has found vaccination rates to be lower among youth ages 12-17 and young adults ages 18-29. In addition, men ages 18-39 years old have had lower rates of vaccination compared to women in the same age group.

- The health unit encourages those who have not yet been vaccinated to do so as soon as possible. Getting vaccinated is one of the most important actions people can take to protect themselves, their loved ones, and our community. All approved COVID-19 vaccines in Canada have been shown to be safe and are an effective way to prevent infection, serious illness, death, and the spread of COVID-19 to others. **The best vaccine is the first one offered to you.**
- Vaccination will also help us get back to the people and activities we love, such as hugging friends and family, playing on our favourite sports team, seeing a concert with a crowd of people, travelling, and going back to in-class learning. As we slowly return to pre-pandemic activities, it is the COVID-19 vaccine and our communities' immunity level that will help keep us from more restrictions.
- The health unit and our many partners continue to work hard to ensure that getting a COVID-19 vaccine in Simcoe Muskoka is accessible, convenient, and a positive experience. We have 13 mass immunization clinics operating across the region, all of which are now allowing residents to walk in and receive their first vaccine dose without an appointment. There are also over 130 pharmacies and primary care providers participating in our local vaccine rollout.
- For all these reasons, we encourage residents to get vaccinated as soon as possible with the first vaccine offered to them. *Don't wait, vaccinate!*
- For more information, please visit our new [webpage](#) devoted to the key things to know about COVID-19 vaccines.

Public health measures to follow under Step 3 of Ontario's reopening plan

- As of July 16, Simcoe Muskoka, along with the rest of the province, has moved into Step 3 of Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#). Under Step 3, more indoor services may reopen with restrictions in place, such as indoor dining, faith-based services, retailers, cinemas, theatres, sport and fitness facilities, museums, and other entertainment venues. Size limits for social gatherings and organized public events have also increased.
- The progression to Step 3 is a welcome move forward and the continued decline in case counts, hospitalizations, and deaths in addition to rising vaccination rates across the province gives us reason to be hopeful. While we have made great progress in bringing the COVID-19 pandemic under control, it is important to remember that the pandemic is not over. As such, the health unit is reminding residents of the importance of continuing to follow public health measures and restrictions in place to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Under Step 3 of Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#), this includes:
 - Abiding by the outdoor gathering limit of 100 people and the indoor gathering limit of 25 people,
 - Maintaining a physical distance of 2 metres from those living 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.

Change in [HealthSTATS](#) and the COVID-19 Case Explorer

- As of July 20, the category that was previous titled 'recovered cases' category on our HealthSTATS webpage is now labelled as 'resolved cases'. This is in keeping with Public Health Ontario's reporting.

- 'Resolved cases' is a more comprehensive category that is defined as follows: includes confirmed COVID-19 cases who are not deceased and are no longer being followed by public health (e.g., 14 days past symptom onset if not hospitalized, 20 days past symptom onset if hospitalized), as well as those who are reported as 'recovered' (a confirmed COVID-19 case who is 14 days past symptom onset, without fever, has improving symptoms and is not currently hospitalized). The move from 'recovered' to 'resolved' results in the addition of 429 cases to this new category.

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

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of July 21, 2021 14:00)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
12,339	22	12,062	255
<p><u>In the last day:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 people became cases, there were 6 resolved cases, and there were no new hospitalizations or deaths. <p><u>Currently:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been 4 new cases reported to the health unit for the current week. • 4 Simcoe Muskoka residents are hospitalized with COVID-19. • There are 7 active variant cases*. • There are no active COVID-19 outbreaks in Simcoe Muskoka. • There has been a total of 104 confirmed cases of the Delta variant in Simcoe Muskoka. <p><u>Since the last Partner Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have reported 14 new cases, 457 resolved cases, and 1 new death. • There are 22 fewer active cases compared to the same day last week. • During the week of July 11, there were 15 new cases reported to the health unit, which was 29% lower than the 21 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 July 21, 2021 14:00)	
Total # immunized with first dose	Total # immunized with second dose
409,571	300,792
<p><u>Highlights:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44,773 immunizations have been provided since the last Partner Update. • Nearly 409,600 Simcoe Muskoka residents have received their first dose, representing 67.8% of the total population and 77.1% of those ages 12 and older. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 222,084 adults 50 years of age and older (88%); ○ 159,404 adults 18-49 years of age (68%); and, ○ 24,889 youth 12-17 years of age (64%). • Nearly 300,800 people have received both required doses of the vaccine, representing 49.8% of the total population and 56.6% of those 12 and older in Simcoe Muskoka. 	

Local Media Updates *(Since July 14, 2021 Partner Update)*

- Dr. Gardner continues to stress importance of vaccination ([article](#))
- Summer looks good in Simcoe Muskoka, the true test of COVID comes in the fall ([article](#))
- Vaccine rates in Simcoe Muskoka about five days behind provincial average ([article](#))
- Health unit hosting walk-in vaccination clinics this week ([article](#))
- Simcoe County post-secondary schools prepare for a return to in-person classes ([article](#))
- Step 3 move may be stressful, but Simcoe Muskoka seems ready, SMDHU says ([article](#))
- Health unit urges people to get vaccine, follow guidelines as we enter Step 3 ([article](#))
- Orillia hospital to host fireside forum on what comes next after pandemic ([article](#))
- 'Collateral damage' of pandemic creates 'huge need' at food bank ([article](#))
- 'Lack of leadership' on vaccine passport causes grief for local businesses ([article](#))

Provincial, National and Global COVID-19 Case Status

Ontario <i>(As of July 21, 2021, 10:30)</i>			
Total cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
548,609	1,334	537,975	9,300

As of today:

- There were 135 new cases, 151 resolved cases, and 4 deaths in the last day.
- The total confirmed variant of concern cases in Ontario are as follows:
 - Lineage B.1.1.7 (Alpha variant): 144,922
 - Lineage B.1.351 (Beta variant): 1,474
 - Lineage P.1 (Gamma variant): 5,027
 - Lineage B.1.617.2 (Delta variant): 3,693
- A total of 139 people are hospitalized with COVID-19, 145 people are in intensive care units (ICU) due to COVID-related critical illness, and 70 people are on ventilators.
- A total of 18,479,003 vaccine doses have been administered. 69.7% of all Ontarians and 79.8% of those ages 12 and older have received their first vaccine dose. 55.2% of all Ontarians and 63.1% of those ages 12 and older have been fully vaccinated.

Since the last Partner Update:

- There have been 1,047 new cases, 1,156 recoveries, and 35 deaths.
- There are 144 fewer active cases compared to the same day last week.
- There are 35 fewer people hospitalized, 35 fewer people in the ICU, and 46 fewer people on ventilators compared to the same day last week.
- The 7-day average number of new daily cases is 150.

Regional updates:

- Areas with the highest number of active cases per 100,000 population: Grey Bruce (35.17), Porcupine (29.19), Waterloo (26.16), North Bay Parry Sound (24.23), and Hamilton (17.51).
- Areas with the highest number of active cases: Toronto (268), Grey Bruce (157), Waterloo (140), Peel (123), and Hamilton (94).

Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: July 4-10, 2021:

- During the week of July 4, there were 1,226 new cases reported, which represented a 17% decrease compared to the 1,471 cases reported the week prior.
- For the past three weeks, Grey Bruce and Region of Waterloo have reported the highest case rates in the province.

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 20, 2021 at 19:00 EDT)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
1,424,220	4,595	1,393,117	26,508
<u>Yesterday:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Canada reported 396 new cases and 4 new deaths.New cases were reported in all provinces and territories except NB, NL, NWT, and NT.New deaths were reported in AB and ON.			
<u>Since the last Partner Update:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">In the last week, 2,773 people tested positive for COVID-19, 58 people died, and 3,069 people recovered.There are 354 fewer active cases of COVID-19 than there was a week ago.			
<u>Key vaccine updates as of July 21, 2021:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">69.8% of the population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, including 80.1% of those ages 12 and older.51.3% of the population has been fully vaccinated, including 58.9% of those ages 12 and older.			
<u>Between July 5 and July 12, 2021:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized decreased from 526 to 419.The number of COVID-19 patients in ICU beds decreased from 310 to 259.The number of COVID-19 patients mechanically vented decreased from 202 to 165.			
<u>Weekly epidemiology report: July 4-10, 2021:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">New cases decreased by 9% compared to the previous week, with an average of 466 new cases reported every day.New deaths decreased by 29% compared to the previous week, with an average of 11 deaths reported every day.The number of weekly hospitalizations decreased by 15% and the number of weekly cases in the ICU decreased by 20% compared to the week prior.According to forecasting, between 1,423,635 to 1,428,825 cumulative reported cases and 26,455 to 26,645 cumulative reported deaths are expected by July 25, 2021.			
For more national data, see: Daily epidemiology updates and Weekly epidemiology report			
Global (As of July 21, 2021 at 12:30 CET)			
Confirmed Cases		Confirmed Deaths	
190,860,860		4,101,414	
<u>In the last day:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">There were 411,494 new cases and 6,653 deaths.The U.K., Indonesia, the U.S., India, and Iran reported the most new cases and Indonesia, Russia, Brazil, Colombia, and Argentina reported the most new deaths.			
<u>In the past week:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Nearly 3.6 million new cases and 54,944 deaths were reported.Indonesia, the U.K., Brazil, India, and the U.S. reported the most new cases and Brazil, Indonesia, Russia, India, and Colombia reported the most new deaths.			

Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: July 12-18, 2021:

- During the week of July 12, there were over 3.4 million new weekly cases reported, which represented a 12% increase compared to the week prior. It is expected that the cumulative number of global cases could exceed 200 million in the next three weeks.
- The number of weekly deaths reported was similar to the previous week, with almost 57,000 new deaths reported.

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

Provincial, National and Global Updates *(Since July 14, 2021 Partner Update)*

Provincial Updates

The Ontario Government:

- Is easing restrictions in congregate care settings ([news release](#))

Public Health Ontario published:

- Updated: Trends of COVID-19 Incidence in Ontario ([epi summary](#))
- 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: Confirmed Cases Following Vaccination in Long-Term Care ([report](#))
- Updated: Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 Following Vaccination in Ontario ([report](#))

Other Provincial News:

- Top health official suggests new vaccination target to account for Delta variant ([article](#))
- About 2.5 million eligible Ontarians remain unvaccinated against COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Ontario won't require passports, make vaccines mandatory for any industry: Ford ([article](#))
- Ontario's COVID-19 vaccinations are trending downward. Experts explain why ([article](#))
- Post-secondary schools asked to prepare for normal fall with back-up plans ([article](#))
- Science experts recommend no more school closures ([article](#))
- OMA calls for COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all Ontario health workers ([article](#))
- Ontario government, boards, unions not tracking data on school staff vaccination ([article](#))
- Patchwork of hospital visitor restrictions in place across Ontario ([article](#))
- Indoor spaces are now open – how to reduce your risk of spreading COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Ontario weighing COVID-19 vaccination requirements for certain jobs ([article](#))

National Updates

The Government of Canada:

- Announces easing of border measures for fully vaccinated travellers ([news release](#))
- International students and travel to Canada ([backgrounder](#))
- Statements from the Chief Public Health Officer: [July 16](#), [July 21](#)

Other National News:

- Canada needs to jump-start first-dose campaign to avoid a 4th wave, experts say ([article](#))
- Canada pivoting vaccine plan as supplies begin to outstrip demand ([article](#))
- Public health experts concerned by Alberta Premier's claim that pandemic is over ([article](#))
- Government expects foreign states' wariness of mixed vaccine series to 'evolve' ([article](#))
- Protect Canada from another wave by increasing vaccination in other countries ([article](#))
- Vaccines curb transmission, but that's not enough to protect those without a shot ([article](#))
- Nurses are leaving in droves, worn down by months on the front lines of COVID ([article](#))
- Atlantic provinces dispose of thousands of doses of expired AstraZeneca vaccine ([article](#))

- A look at COVID-19 reopening plans across the country ([article](#))
- Fully vaxxed U.S. citizens can enter Canada Aug. 9, rest of world Sept. 7 ([article](#))
- Will Canadians need a third dose COVID-19 booster? Experts weigh in ([article](#))
- Why a COVID-19 vaccine isn't available for children yet ([article](#))
- The case for and against domestic COVID-19 vaccine passports ([article](#))

Global Updates

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Study estimates global COVID-19-associated orphanhood ([article](#))
- Special Focus: Update on SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern ([Weekly epi update](#) p.6-10)
- Continues fight against worsening pandemic amid uneven vaccine rollout ([feature story](#))
- Warns that HIV infection increases risk of severe and critical COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Roadmap for prioritizing uses of COVID vaccines in context of limited supply ([article](#))
- COVID-19 pandemic leads to major backsliding on childhood vaccination ([news release](#))

Other International News:

- Cases in Tokyo surge to six-month high two days before Olympic Games open ([article](#))
- Warning signs for global recovery as Delta dims outlook ([article](#))
- COVID-19 restrictions drop across England amid rising caseloads ([article](#))
- COVID-19 vaccine inequity: Inside the cutthroat race to secure doses ([article](#))
- Indonesia becomes COVID-19 pandemic's new epicenter ([article](#))
- COVID-19 'is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated,' CDC director says ([article](#))

SMDHU Resources

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

Main COVID-19

- Updated main content to reflect the transition to Step 3 of Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#)

Stop the Spread

- Updated content under the following expander bars to reflect current guidance and restrictions under Step 3 of Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#):
 - [Close contact, gatherings and events](#)
 - [Travel](#)
 - [Marinas](#)
 - [Hunting and fishing](#)
 - [Hosting a garage sale during COVID-19](#)
 - [Shopping for and handling second-hand goods during COVID-19](#)
 - [How to attend a wedding, funeral or other religious ceremony safely](#)

Key things to know about COVID-19 Vaccines

- Posted new webpage with comprehensive information about COVID-19 vaccination as one component of the health unit's broader vaccine hesitancy campaign

Operating your Business Safely

- Updated information and guidance documents under the following expander bars to reflect current guidance and restrictions under Step 3 of Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#):
 - [Resources for all employers and workplaces](#)
 - [Mandatory face covering in indoor public spaces](#)
 - [Curling clubs](#)
 - [Day camps](#)

- [Food operators](#)
- [Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings](#)
- [Landlords and property managers](#)
- [Licensed child care](#)
- [Marinas](#)
- [Indoor and outdoor recreational amenities](#)
- [Personal service settings](#)
- [Facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities](#)
- [Recreational camps](#)
- [Recreational water facilities](#)
- [Retail businesses and shopping malls](#)

Partners and Municipalities

- Updated information and guidance documents under the following expander bars to reflect current guidance and restrictions under Step 3 of Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#):
 - [Cooling centres](#)
 - [Day camps](#)
 - [Election guidance](#)
 - [Farmers' Markets](#)
 - [Food banks and donation centres](#)
 - [Indoor and outdoor recreational amenities](#)
 - [Faith-based organizations](#)

Reporting Complaints

- Updated information on [complaints about gatherings](#) and [complaints regarding travel-related mandatory isolation/quarantine](#) to reflect current guidance and restrictions under Step 3 of Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#)

New Public Health Alerts:

- **July 21, 2021:** [COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #31: Mass Immunization Clinic Ramp Down and Role of Primary Care in Sustainable Access to Vaccination](#)

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](#)