

COVID-19 Update for Partners

July 28, 2021

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Key messages from Dr. Gardner, Medical Officer of Health

Gradual ramp down of COVID-19 mass immunization clinics

- Providing COVID-19 vaccination to people living in Simcoe Muskoka has been, and will continue to be, a key component of the health unit's response to the pandemic. The rapid vaccination of our population has been made possible through the collective efforts of many individuals and organizations, including health unit staff and volunteers, our municipal, healthcare, and community partners, as well as each resident who has come forward to get vaccinated. As of July 28, the total percentage of Simcoe Muskoka residents ages 12 and older who have been vaccinated with their first dose was 78.0%, and those with their second dose was 62.2%.
- Now that a significant and increasing proportion of the Simcoe Muskoka population has been vaccinated, **the health unit is actively planning with its partners for the closure of our mass immunization clinics by late August. Individuals with appointments booked beyond August 27, 2021 are advised to move their appointments to an earlier date or attend a clinic with [walk-in appointments](#) available.**
- Although our mass immunization clinics will be ramping down over the next month, COVID-19 vaccination will still be widely available to eligible residents through other avenues such as at the 29 Sperling COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic until September 30th, [participating pharmacies](#), primary care providers, and pop-up clinics. Please check the health unit's [website](#) and social media channels regularly for updated information on vaccination opportunities.
- Due to the wind down of mass immunization clinics and the reduced incidence of COVID-19 in our communities, the health unit is also planning for the reduction in casual staff who were hired on contract to assist with COVID-19 immunization, case and contact management, and outbreak response. I want to take this opportunity to publicly recognize all our employees; those who have been with us for a long time and those who joined us specifically to help with the COVID-19 response. I applaud their dedication and tremendous contributions in responding to the pandemic, and to helping the people of Simcoe Muskoka to be safe and healthy throughout this unprecedented health crisis.

Don't wait, vaccinate social marketing campaign launched

- *Don't wait, vaccinate!* is the message that the health unit is using to promote vaccine uptake in Simcoe Muskoka. Although we have made great progress in rapidly providing

COVID-19 vaccination to the Simcoe Muskoka population, we understand that some people are still hesitant or have not found a convenient way to get the vaccine. We want to ensure the people in our region that the vaccine is safe, effective, and easy to get before our mass immunization clinics wrap up at the end of August.

- Vaccine confidence is being promoted through a social marketing campaign using a variety of strategies and focusing on various demographic groups to create awareness. Paid ads (July 28-August 11) on radio, digital newspaper, and social media are being used to spread the message while linking the audience back to our [Getting your vaccine](#) page or our newly developed page [Key things to know about COVID-19 vaccines](#) webpage.
- Youth-focused communications are underway and are centred on both peer-to-peer social media interactions as well as using youth voice to influence parents to support their child getting the vaccine. Additional strategies involving local health care providers as vaccine ambassadors are also being worked on with the hope that content will be ready to share soon.
- We know that our vaccine promotions are a message that many of our partners would like to support, so please 'like' and share our content on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We have placed all our digital creative assets in a [Dropbox folder](#) that can be used at your discretion.

Messaging regarding summer events and the upcoming long weekend

- Now that summertime is here and the province has entered Step 3 of its [Roadmap to Reopen](#), many people are looking forward to gathering with loved ones, friends and family, and attending local events. The health unit is aware that there are several large-scale events taking place locally over the remainder of the summer and is working with these venues to ensure that they are following all regulations and have proper COVID-19 protocols in place. The health unit will also be closely monitoring for any related spread of COVID-19 related to these events.
- As people make plans for the summer and for the upcoming long weekend, the health unit encourages individuals to take actions to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Getting both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect you, your family, and our communities from the virus. Along with getting vaccinated, it is important to follow the public health measures outlined under Step 3 of Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#), which include:
 - Following the gathering limit of 100 people for outdoor gatherings and public events, the indoor gathering limit of 25 people, or following the capacity limits set out for indoor or outdoor concerts, theatres, or other event venues. Locally organized events may allow for more people to attend venues that are approved by the health unit. If you attend these events, follow the health unit and regulation event rules to assist in decreasing the risk of COVID-19.
 - Maintaining 2-metres physical distance from everyone outside of your household.
 - Wearing a mask indoors and outdoors when physical distancing is not possible as well as in all indoor public spaces. Venues and festivals may have their own additional rules for wearing a face covering that must be followed.
 - Staying home and getting tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Washing your hands thoroughly and regularly.
 - Practicing good cough etiquette by coughing or sneezing into your elbow or a tissue and disposing of the tissue properly once used.
- For additional information, please see the health unit's new webpage on [How to safely attend summer events](#).

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

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status *(As of July 28, 2021 14:00)*

Total Cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
12,368	32	12,081	255

In the last day:

- 6 people became cases, there were 4 resolved cases, and there were no new hospitalizations or deaths.

Currently:

- There have been 12 new cases reported to the health unit for the current week.
- 2 Simcoe Muskoka residents are hospitalized with COVID-19.
- There are 19 active variant cases*.
- There are no active COVID-19 outbreaks in Simcoe Muskoka.
- There has been a total of 177 confirmed cases of the Delta variant in Simcoe Muskoka.

Since the last Partner Update:

- We have reported 29 new cases, 19 resolved cases, and no new deaths.
- There are 10 more active cases compared to the same day last week.
- During the week of July 18, there were 23 new cases reported to the health unit, which was 44% higher than the 16 cases reported the week prior.

For more local data, see: SMDHU [COVID-19 HealthSTATS page](#) and [COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard](#)

*Variant cases encompass confirmed VOC cases and positive screens for a VOC. Caution should be taken when interpreting these data due to potential sampling biases and delay between sample collection and sequencing in recent weeks.

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccine Data *(As of July 28, 2021 14:00)*

Total # immunized with first dose	Total # immunized with second dose
414,513	330,545

Highlights:

- 34,695 immunizations have been provided since the last Partner Update.
- Over 414,500 Simcoe Muskoka residents have received their first dose, representing 68.6% of the total population and 78.0% of those ages 12 and older. This includes:
 - 223,266 adults 50 years of age and older (88%);
 - 165,484 adults 18-49 years of age (69%); and,
 - 25,755 youth 12-17 years of age (66%).
- Over 330,500 people have received both required doses of the vaccine, representing 54.7% of the total population and 62.2% of those 12 and older in Simcoe Muskoka.

Local Media Updates *(Since July 21, 2021 Partner Update)*

- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to close mass immunization clinics ([article](#))
- Stats show about 96% of local COVID-19 cases involve unvaccinated people ([article](#))
- Simcoe Muskoka catching up on vaccinations as more supply becomes available ([article](#))
- Barrie mayor wants vaccine passports, health unit's top doc shows hesitance ([article](#))
- Health unit seeks \$5M line of credit to cover COVID-19 pandemic costs ([article](#))
- Simcoe County hospitals ease visiting policies ([article](#))
- 'Ventilation is key'; Local CUPE members air concerns on back-to-school ([article](#))
- Unvaccinated population 'will constitute the fourth wave,' Dr. Nathanson says ([article](#))

Provincial, National and Global COVID-19 Case Status

Ontario (As of July 28, 2021, 10:30)

Total cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
549,734	1,378	539,031	9,325

As of today:

- There were 158 new cases, 171 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): 145,474
 - Lineage B.1.351 (Beta variant): 1,492
 - Lineage P.1 (Gamma variant): 5,159
 - Lineage B.1.617.2 (Delta variant): 4,044
- A total of 117 people are hospitalized with COVID-19, 122 people are in intensive care units (ICU) due to COVID-related critical illness, and 83 people are on ventilators.
- A total of 19,204,544 vaccine doses have been administered. 70.5% of all Ontarians and 80.6% of those ages 12 and older have received their first vaccine dose. 59.4% of all Ontarians and 67.9% of those ages 12 and older have been fully vaccinated.
- There are currently 48 active COVID-19 outbreaks in Ontario.

Since the last Partner Update:

- There have been 1,125 new cases, 1,056 recoveries, and 25 deaths.
- There are 44 more active cases compared to the same day last week.
- There are 22 fewer people hospitalized, 23 fewer people in the ICU, and 13 more people on ventilators compared to the same day last week.
- The 7-day average number of new daily cases is 161.

Regional updates:

- Areas with the highest number of active cases per 100,000 population: Porcupine (24.94), Hamilton (22.72), Grey Bruce (18.37), Waterloo (17.75), and Chatham-Kent (14.70).
- Areas with the highest number of active cases: Toronto (329), Peel (149), Hamilton (122), York (101), and Waterloo (95).

Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: July 11-17, 2021:

- During the week of July 11, there were 1,060 cases reported, which represented a 14% decrease compared to the 1,227 cases reported the week prior.
- This week, two outbreaks in day camps were reported for the first time during the 2021 summer camp season with an outbreak size of 5 cases each. So far, all cases linked to these two outbreaks have been in children under 12 years of age.

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 27, 2021 at 19:00 EDT)

Total Cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
1,427,917	5,165	1,396,192	26,560

Yesterday:

- Canada reported 578 new cases and 8 new deaths.
- New cases were reported in all provinces and territories except PEI and NWT.
- New deaths were reported in AB and ON.

Since the last Partner Update:

- In the last week, 3,697 people tested positive for COVID-19, 52 people died, and 3,075 people recovered.
- There are 570 more active cases of COVID-19 than there was a week ago.

Key vaccine updates as of July 28, 2021:

- 70.5% of the population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, including 80.9% of those ages 12 and older.
- 56.6% of the population has been fully vaccinated, including 65.0% of those ages 12 and older.

Between July 12 and July 19, 2021:

- The number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized decreased from 418 to 368.
- The number of COVID-19 patients in ICU beds decreased from 259 to 203.
- The number of COVID-19 patients mechanically vented decreased from 165 to 132.

Weekly epidemiology report: July 11-17, 2021:

- New cases decreased by 16% compared to the previous week, with an average of 394 new cases reported every day.
- New deaths decreased by 20% compared to the previous week, with an average of 9 deaths reported every day.
- The number of weekly hospitalizations decreased by 15% and the number of weekly cases in the ICU decreased by 17% compared to the week prior.
- Since the start of the vaccination campaign on December 14, 2020, the majority (89.8%) of cases reported were among those who were unvaccinated.
- According to forecasting, between 1,425,025 to 1,431,710 cumulative reported cases and 26,485 to 26,695 cumulative reported deaths are expected by August 1, 2021.

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

Global (As of July 27, 2021 at 17:54 CET)	
Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
194,608,040	4,170,155

In the last day:

- There were 410,645 new cases and 7,628 deaths.
- Indonesia, Iran, India, the U.K., and Russia reported the most new cases and Indonesia, Russia, Brazil, India, and Myanmar reported the most new deaths.

In the past week:

- Over 3.7 million new cases and 68,741 deaths were reported.
- The U.S., Brazil, Indonesia, India, and the U.K. reported the most new cases and Indonesia, Ecuador, Brazil, India, and Russia reported the most new deaths.

Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: July 19-25, 2021:

- During the week of July 19, there were over 3.8 million new weekly cases reported, which represented an 8% increase compared to the week prior.
- There were over 69,000 new weekly deaths reported, which represented a 21% increase compared to the week prior. The greatest number of new deaths were reported from the Americas and South-East Asia regions.

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

Provincial, National and Global Updates *(Since July 21, 2021 Partner Update)*

Provincial Updates

The Ontario Government:

- Is ramping up efforts to reduce surgical wait times ([news release](#))
- To supply additional Ontario-made masks ([news release](#))

Public Health Ontario published:

- Delta: Risk Analysis and Implications for Public Health Measures ([evidence brief](#))
- Additional Routes of COVID-19 Transmission – What We Know So Far ([report](#))
- Updated: Trends of COVID-19 Incidence in Ontario ([epi summary](#))
- Updated: Vaccine Uptake and Program Impact in Ontario ([report](#))
- Updated: Estimating the Prevalence and Growth of Variants in Ontario ([report](#))

Other Provincial News:

- ‘Very comprehensive’ back-to-school plan will be revealed next week ([article](#))
- COVID-19 vaccination certifications may allow faster reopening: Science table ([article](#))
- Ontario regions push to boost youth vaccination rate before start of school year ([article](#))
- When will ON move out of Step 3? Not so fast, based on regional vaccine rates ([article](#))
- Ontario will have different rules for vaccinated students, staff in school outbreaks ([article](#))
- Ontario plans to soon report how many COVID cases are in unvaccinated people ([article](#))
- Ontario holds firm on COVID-19 vaccine eligibility for 12-year-olds ([article](#))
- Pearson airport reverses decision to separate arrivals by vaccination status ([article](#))
- Ford says he supports frequent COVID tests for unvaccinated health workers ([article](#))
- ON asks Ottawa to work with WHO to ensure mixed vaccines recognized abroad ([article](#))
- Ontario nursing sector slammed with staffing shortages as many rethink careers ([article](#))
- Some parents, child-care providers call for updates to COVID-19 rules ([article](#))
- Nurses’ association calls for mandatory vaccinations for all health workers in ON ([article](#))

National Updates

The Government of Canada:

- Funds new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in youth ([news release](#))
- Proposes regulations to improve protection of temporary foreign workers ([news release](#))
- COVID-19 update for Indigenous Peoples and communities ([news release](#))
- Statements from the Chief Public Health Officer: [July 22](#), [July 23](#), [July 27](#), [July 28](#)

Other National News:

- BC looks to improve vaccination rates in the Interior as potential 4th wave looms ([article](#))
- COVID-19 spreading faster in Alberta than during peak of 3rd wave ([article](#))
- Meet the unvaccinated: Why some Canadians still haven’t had the shot ([article](#))
- Canada now has enough vaccine doses to inoculate everyone eligible: Trudeau ([article](#))
- QC offers 3rd vaccine dose to travellers whose vaccination status isn’t recognized ([article](#))
- Provinces won’t tighten indoor mask rules despite rising COVID-19 cases ([article](#))
- Youth unemployment rose during COVID-19: StatsCan data ([article](#))
- Border workers vote to strike, putting Canada’s reopening plans at risk ([article](#))
- How COVID-19 has undone years of gains for working women in Canada ([article](#))
- Why mandatory vaccines for health workers could help Canada fight a 4th wave ([article](#))
- Demand for vaccines dropping in Canada, some fear it could mean tossed doses ([article](#))

Global Updates

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Special Focus: Evaluation of the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in real-world settings ([Weekly epi update](#) p. 5-8)
- Special Focus: Update on SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern ([Weekly epi update](#) p.9-10)
- WHO Global Advisory Committee of Vaccine Safety subcommittee on reports of Guillan-Barre Syndrome following adenovirus vector COVID-19 vaccines ([statement](#))
- Vaccine inequity undermining global economic recovery ([news release](#))

Other International News:

- U.S. CDC calls for masks in areas of high transmission, even for fully vaccinated ([article](#))
- Death rates soar in Southeast Asia as COVID-19 wave spreads ([article](#))
- Biden says children under 12 may be eligible for vaccine by end of August ([article](#))
- Delta COVID-19 variant upends assumptions about the coronavirus ([article](#))
- European agency clears Moderna vaccine for children 12-17 ([article](#))
- Olympic host Tokyo reports record number new COVID cases for 2nd straight day ([article](#))

SMDHU Resources

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

[How to safely attend summer events](#)

- Posted new webpage with information and guidance on how to stop the spread of COVID-19 and stay healthy while attending events this summer

[Stop the Spread](#)

- Added new expander bar with information on [Planning your wedding during COVID-19](#)

[Getting your Vaccination](#)

- Updated main content to reflect the closure of mass immunization clinics by late August

[Operating your Business Safely](#)

- Updated content under '[Resources for all employers and workplaces](#)' expander bar
- Updated COVID-19 information and guidance for [Day Camps](#)

[Partners and Municipalities](#)

- Updated COVID-19 information and guidance for [Day Camps](#)

[Our Response](#)

- Updated information and metrics on the health unit's COVID-19 response

New Public Health Alerts – None

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](#)