

COVID-19 Update for Partners

August 4, 2021

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Key messages from Dr. Gardner, Medical Officer of Health

There is no media briefing scheduled the week of August 2, 2021. Dr. Gardner's next media briefing will take place on Tuesday, August 17. Previous media briefings are available on the SMDHU [Facebook](#) page and [YouTube](#) channel.

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status *(As of August 4, 2021 14:00)*

Total Cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
12,385	29	12,101	255

In the last day:

- 4 people became cases, there were 15 resolved cases, there was 1 new hospitalization, and there were no new deaths.

Currently:

- There have been 6 new cases reported to the health unit for the current week.
- 2 Simcoe Muskoka residents are hospitalized with COVID-19.
- There are 14 active variant cases*.
- There are 2 active COVID-19 outbreaks (institutional settings: 1, community settings: 1), including 1 active outbreak with known variant cases.
- There has been a total of 195 confirmed cases of the Delta variant in Simcoe Muskoka.

Since the last Partner Update:

- We have reported 17 new cases, 20 resolved cases, and no new deaths.
- There are 3 fewer active cases compared to the same day last week.
- There are 2 more active COVID-19 outbreaks compared to the same day last week.
- During the week of July 25, there were 28 new cases reported to the health unit, which was 22% higher than the 23 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 August 4, 2021 14:00)*

Total # immunized with first dose	Total # immunized with second dose
418,911	352,608
<u>Highlights:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26,461 immunizations have been provided since the last Partner Update.• Over 418,900 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 224,236 adults 50 years of age and older (88%);○ 168,014 adults 18-49 years of age (70%); and,○ 26,655 youth 12-17 years of age (68%).• Over 352,600 people have received both required doses of the vaccine, representing 58.3% of the total population and 66.4% of those 12 and older in Simcoe Muskoka.	

Local Media Updates *(Since July 28, 2021 Partner Update)*

- Weekly COVID case count rises again in Simcoe Muskoka, health unit confirms ([article](#))
- Health unit hosting walk-in vaccine clinics this week ([article](#))
- World-renowned summer camp now in outbreak, health unit confirms ([article](#))
- Most restrictions will lift after Step 3: Local health expert voices his concerns ([article](#))
- Alliston COVID-19 vaccine pop-up clinic accepting walk-ins ([article](#))
- Simcoe County school boards reviewing new back-to-school guidance ([article](#))
- Health care workers raise concern over wages, supports during protest at RVH ([article](#))
- Georgian College students need COVID-19 vaccines to live in residence ([article](#))

Provincial, National and Global COVID-19 Case Status

Ontario <i>(As of August 4, 2021, 10:30)</i>			
Total cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
551,125	1,690	540,075	9,360
<u>As of today:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were 139 new cases, 155 resolved cases, and 11 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): 145,538○ Lineage B.1.351 (Beta variant): 1,493○ Lineage P.1 (Gamma variant): 5,164○ Lineage B.1.617.2 (Delta variant): 4,909• A total of 112 people are hospitalized with COVID-19, 108 people are in intensive care units (ICU) due to COVID-related critical illness, and 76 people are on ventilators.• A total of 19,652,011 vaccine doses have been administered. 71.1% of all Ontarians and 81.3% of those ages 12 and older have received their first vaccine dose. 61.8% of all Ontarians and 70.7% of those ages 12 and older have been fully vaccinated.• There are currently 57 active COVID-19 outbreaks in Ontario.			
<u>Since the last Partner Update:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There have been 1,391 new cases, 1,044 recoveries, and 35 deaths.• There are 312 more active cases compared to the same day last week.• There are 5 fewer people hospitalized, 14 fewer people in the ICU, and 7 fewer people on ventilators compared to the same day last week.• The 7-day average number of new daily cases is 199.			

Regional updates:

- Areas with the highest number of active cases per 100,000 population: Hamilton (26.82), Waterloo (25.04), Porcupine (17.81), Southwestern (16.51), and Toronto (16.29).
- Areas with the highest number of active cases: Toronto (445), Peel (199), York (155), Hamilton (144), and Waterloo (134).

Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: July 18-24, 2021:

- During the week of July 18, there were 1,110 cases reported, which represented a 6% increase compared to the 1,047 cases reported the week prior.
- Despite the increase in provincial cases, public health units that had the highest case rates in recent weeks reported large declines this week, including Grey Bruce, Porcupine, and Region of Waterloo health units.

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 August 3, 2021 at 19:00 EDT)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
1,433,775	7,744	1,399,424	26,607

Yesterday:

- Canada reported 733 new cases and 6 new deaths.
- New cases were reported in all provinces and territories except NL, PEI, and NWT.
- New deaths were reported in BC, MB, ON, and YT.

Since the last Partner Update:

- In the last week, 5,858 people tested positive for COVID-19, 47 people died, and 3,232 people recovered.
- There are 2,579 more active cases of COVID-19 than there was a week ago.

Key vaccine updates as of August 4, 2021:

- 71.0% of the population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, including 81.6% of those ages 12 and older.
- 59.8% of the population has been fully vaccinated, including 68.7% of those ages 12 and older.

Between July 18 and July 26, 2021:

- The number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized decreased from 368 to 318.
- The number of COVID-19 patients in ICU beds decreased from 203 to 188.
- The number of COVID-19 patients mechanically vented decreased from 132 to 118.

Weekly epidemiology report: July 18-24, 2021:

- New cases increased by 27% compared to the previous week, with an average of 501 new cases reported every day.
- New deaths decreased by 19% compared to the previous week, with an average of 7 deaths reported every day.
- The number of weekly hospitalizations decreased by 14% and the number of weekly cases in the ICU decreased by 17% compared to the week prior.
- The majority (89.7%) of cases reported since December 2020 were among those who were unvaccinated. Compared to unvaccinated cases, fully vaccinated cases were 70% less likely to be hospitalized and 50% less likely to die as a result of their illness.

- According to forecasting, between 1,432,555 to 1,441,610 cumulative reported cases and 26,570 to 26,700 cumulative reported deaths are expected by August 8, 2021.

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

Global (As of August 3, 2021 at 17:30 CET)	
Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
198,778,175	4,235,559
<p><u>In the last day:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 424,716 new cases and 7,766 deaths. • Iran, Indonesia, India, Turkey, and Russia reported the most new cases and Indonesia, Russia, Vietnam, Brazil, and India reported the most new deaths. <p><u>In the past week:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly 4.2 million new cases and 65,404 deaths were reported. • The U.S., India, Indonesia, Brazil, and Iran reported the most new cases and Indonesia, Brazil, Russia, India, and Mexico reported the most new deaths. <p><u>Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights: July 26-August 1, 2021:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The global number of new cases has been increasing for more than a month, with over 4 million new weekly cases reported during the week of July 26. • There was an 8% decrease in new weekly deaths reported compared to the week prior. However, the Western Pacific and Eastern Mediterranean Regions showed a sharp increase in new deaths, reporting 48% and 31% increases, respectively. <p>For more international data, see: WHO COVID-19 Disease Dashboard and Weekly Epidemiological and Operational Updates</p>	

Provincial, National and Global Updates *(Since July 28, 2021 Partner Update)*

Provincial Updates

The Ontario Government:

- Is further improving school ventilation ([news release](#))
- Makes investment in safe, innovative festivals and events ([news release](#))

Public Health Ontario published:

- COVID-19 Public Health Measures Related to the Delta Variant ([environmental scan](#))
- SARS-CoV-2 Infections after Vaccination – What We Know So Far ([synthesis](#))
- Updated: Vaccine Uptake and Program Impact in Ontario ([report](#))
- Updated: Trends of COVID-19 Incidence in Ontario ([epi summary](#))
- Updated: Adverse Events Following Immunization for COVID-19 in Ontario ([report](#))
- Updated: Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 Following Vaccination in Ontario ([report](#))

Other Provincial News:

- Masks will stay on after Step 3 of reopening as capacity limits are dropped ([article](#))
- Masks, physical distancing top Ontario's COVID-19 back-to-school plan ([article](#))
- Ontario in 'critical' period to use up Moderna shots, pharmacists group says ([article](#))
- Ontario won't loosen COVID-19 restrictions until it hits vaccination goals: Ford ([article](#))
- How Ontario's back-to-school plan compares to Science Table recommendations ([article](#))
- A fourth wave could fundamentally divide Ontarians, expert warns ([article](#))
- Virtual care is here to stay but correct 'dose' must be determined: ON doctors ([article](#))

National Updates

The Government of Canada:

- Extends benefits, business supports to support economic recovery ([news release](#))
- Individuals fined for providing false information related to COVID-19 proof of vaccination credentials and pre-departure tests ([news release](#))
- COVID-19 update for Indigenous Peoples and communities ([news release](#))
- Statements from the Chief Public Health Officer: [July 29](#), [August 3](#), [August 4](#)

Other National News:

- Restrictions, mask mandate back in B.C. region as COVID-19 cases surge ([article](#))
- Canada's top doctors weigh in on Alberta's plan to end COVID-19 isolation ([article](#))
- Manitoba loosening more COVID-19 health orders, removing mask mandate ([article](#))
- Tam urges higher vaccine rate, cautious reopening to avoid risk of fourth wave ([article](#))
- New Brunswick removes most public COVID-19 restrictions across province ([article](#))
- Alberta Medical Association head concerned over government lifting restrictions ([article](#))
- Decision to mix COVID-19 vaccines could cause international travel difficulties ([article](#))
- Canadian Medical Association calls for mandatory vaccines for health workers ([article](#))
- Conservatives push feds to ensure Canadians who got mixed vaccines can travel ([article](#))
- More Canadians say worst of COVID yet to come as Delta variant spreads: poll ([article](#))

Global Updates

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Special Focus: Update on SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern ([Weekly epi update](#) p.5-6)
- Director General emphasizes that "The pandemic will end when the world chooses to end it... We have all the tools we need: we can prevent this disease, we can test for it, and we can treat it. And yet... cases and deaths from COVID-19 have continued to climb... In five of WHO's six regions, infections have increased by 80%, or nearly doubled, over the past four weeks." (Remarks at [July 30 media briefing](#))
- Multilateral Leaders Task Force on COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics for developing countries ([statement](#))
- Health Workforce in COVID-19 Action Series: Time to Protect. Invest. Together. ([article](#))
- Partnering to ensure essential health services during the pandemic ([feature story](#))

Other International News:

- WHO calls for halting COVID-19 vaccine boosters ([article](#))
- Florida is a cautionary COVID-19 tale. Here's what Canada can learn from it ([article](#))
- New York becomes first U.S. city to mandate vaccines for restaurants, gyms ([article](#))
- Tokyo Olympics nightmare is coming true with worst COVID-19 outbreak to date ([article](#))
- Thousands protest against COVID-19 health pass in France ([article](#))

SMDHU Resources

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

Main COVID-19

- Updated information and guidance for those who are [close contacts of a person who recently tested positive for COVID-19](#)

Getting your Vaccination

- Added information about upcoming [local pop-up clinics](#) for Alliston, Stayner, and Creemore areas

Operating your Business Safely

- Updated COVID-19 information and guidance under the following expander bars:
 - [Resources for all employers and workplaces](#)
 - [Mandatory face coverings in indoor public spaces](#)
 - [Curling clubs](#)
 - [Day camps](#)
 - [Food operators](#)
 - [Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings](#)
 - [Marinas](#)
 - [Indoor and outdoor recreational amenities](#)
 - [Facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities](#)
 - [Recreational water facilities](#)
 - [Taxi and rideshare drivers](#)

Partners and Municipalities

- Updated COVID-19 information and guidance under the following expander bars:
 - [Public beaches](#)
 - [Community gardens](#)
 - [Cooling centres](#)
 - [Day camps](#)
 - [Election guidance](#)
 - [Farmers' markets](#)
 - [Food banks and donation centres](#)
 - [Indoor and outdoor recreational amenities](#)
 - [Faith-based organizations](#)
 - [Public washrooms](#)
 - [Shelter services](#)

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-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](#)