

## COVID-19 Update for Partners

August 18, 2021

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### Key messages from Dr. Gardner, Medical Officer of Health

#### **COVID-19 vaccine rollout update**

- Last week we reached a very important milestone with 80% of our population 12+ having received their first dose, and 70% now being fully vaccinated. The next step will be to get dose 2 coverage up to at least 75% and of course, continuing our efforts to try to reach the ultimate goal of 90% or higher.
- Our daily average in doses administered per 1,000 population is 3.6 (down from 5.7 from the update on August 9) but is still higher than the overall provincial average and higher than the GTA Public Health Units (PHUs), second highest in Central East Region behind Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR) at 3.7 doses.
- As of yesterday, our health unit has moved from being third from the bottom of 34 PHUs to being 14<sup>th</sup> out of 34 PHUs and increased dose 2 coverage among the eligible population by 15% to 71%.
- For second doses where we were 6% points behind the provincial rate, we are now only 3% points lower. This progress is a good indicator that our outreach efforts are working, with more people getting vaccinated.

#### **Opportunity for pop-up clinics**

- As our mass immunization clinics (MICs) are ramping down in August and through September, health unit staff will continue to be out in the community doing pop-up COVID-19 vaccine clinics to make getting the vaccine as easy as possible for those who have not accessed our MICs. Vaccinations are also being offered at many local pharmacies and by primary care providers.
- As well, if there are groups and organizations interested in having a pop-up COVID-19 immunization clinic come to them, they can find more information on our website in the vaccination section at [smdhu.org/getvaccinated](https://smdhu.org/getvaccinated).
- We will do our best to accommodate requests but may not be able to do all based on our capacity.

### **In-School Vaccination Clinics**

- As Education Minister Lecce announced August 16, vaccinations will be offered at in-school vaccination clinics. We are working with our local school board partners and still in the planning stage.
- We are aiming to offer clinics at a number of schools throughout Simcoe Muskoka during the first two weeks of the school year, with vaccinations being available to staff, students, families and community members. Exact locations and dates are still being determined.
- **However**, for youth aged 12-17 to be fully vaccinated by the first day of school, they need to receive their second vaccine no later than **August 24<sup>th</sup>**. Full coverage against COVID-19 comes two weeks after the second dose.
- We encourage parents, students and staff to visit one of our mass immunization clinics which are all taking walk-ins, one of our pop-up clinics, their local pharmacy or their primary care provider to be vaccinated as soon as possible.
- During the Chief Medical Officer of Health's (CMOH) media conference on August 17, Dr. Kieran Moore announced that children born in 2009 and therefore turning 12 years of age by the end of the school year will be eligible to receive Pfizer vaccine. As of Wednesday, Aug. 18, these individuals can book their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine appointment through the [provincial booking system](#), through their public health unit, or pharmacies, or can walk into vaccination clinics across the province.

### **Key items from Dr. Moore's media conference August 17, 2021**

- CMOH Dr. Kieran Moore issued a directive mandating hospitals and home and community care service providers to have a COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees, staff, contractors, students and volunteers, and for ambulance services to have a COVID-19 vaccination policy for paramedics. The vaccination policy will be in effect no later than September 7 and at a minimum will require these individuals to provide proof of one of three things:
  - Full vaccination against COVID-19;
  - A medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19; or
  - Completion of a COVID-19 vaccination educational session.
- Individuals who do not provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 will be required to undertake regular antigen testing.
- These settings will be required to track and report on the implementation of their policies to the provincial government. This is similar to the vaccination policy requirements currently in place for long-term care homes.
- The Ministry of Education also intends to introduce a vaccination disclosure policy for all publicly-funded school board employees, and staff in private schools, as well as for all staff in licensed childcare settings for the 2021-22 school year, with rapid antigen testing requirements for staff who are not immunized against COVID-19.
- Vaccination policies will also be implemented in other higher-risk settings such as:
  - post-secondary institutions
  - licensed retirement homes

- women's shelters
- congregate group homes and day programs for adults with developmental disabilities, children's treatment centres and other services for children with special needs, and licensed children's residential settings.
- As an additional measure, a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine will be available to those at highest risk to provide an added layer of protection. This will be available to transplant recipients, patients on active treatment for hematological cancers and recipients of an anti-CD20 agent. As well, residents of high-risk congregate settings including long-term care homes, higher-risk licensed retirement homes and First Nations elder care lodges may also receive a third dose.
- While the province has reached the milestone of more than 81% of Ontarians aged 12 and over having received a first dose, and is expected to reach its target of 75% vaccinated with a second dose later this month, out of an abundance of caution the government, in consultation with the CMOH, is pausing the exit from the [Roadmap to Reopen](#). The CMOH and other health experts will continue to monitor the data to determine when it is safe to exit the Roadmap and lift most of the public health and workplace safety measures currently in place.

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

<b>Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status</b> <i>(As of August 18, 2021 10:00)</i>			
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>Active Cases</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
12,541	122	12,164	255
<p>In the last day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 people became cases, there were 2 resolved cases, there were no new hospitalizations, and there were no new deaths.</li> </ul> <p>Currently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been 24 new cases reported to the health unit for the current week.</li> <li>• 2 Simcoe Muskoka residents are hospitalized with COVID-19.</li> <li>• There are 86 active variant cases*.</li> <li>• Variants of Concern (VOC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 6,013 cases screened to date for variants of concern <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 5,187 VOC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4,002 Alpha (B.1.1.7 - UK), including 3,290 presumptive B.1.1.7</li> <li>• 34 Beta (B.1.351 - S. Africa)</li> <li>• 168 Gamma (P.1 - Brazil)</li> <li>• 303 Delta (B.1.617 - India), including 141 presumptive B.1.617.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ VOC percent positivity for week of August 1 to August 7 is 100%.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There is 1 active COVID-19 outbreak in a workplace setting.</li> <li>• There has been a total of 312 confirmed cases of the Delta variant in Simcoe Muskoka.</li> </ul> <p>Since the last Partner Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have reported 102 new cases, 44 resolved cases, and no new deaths.</li> <li>• There are 58 more active cases compared to the same day last week.</li> <li>• There is 1 active COVID-19 outbreak.</li> </ul> </li></ul>			

- There have been 42 new cases reported to the health unit for the current week. There were 99 new cases reported to the health unit last week (week of August 8th), 168% or more than 2.5 times higher than the 37 cases reported for the week of August 1st.

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 18, 2021 10:00)*

Total # immunized with first dose	Total # immunized with second dose
425,290	376,905

#### Highlights:

- 13,277 immunizations have been provided since the last Partner Update.
- Almost 422,000 people have received their first dose, which represents 70.4% of the total population.
- Almost 377,000 people have received both required doses of the vaccine, representing 62.3% of the total population.
- Approximately 80% of Simcoe Muskoka adults 12 years of age and older have received at least one dose of vaccine and 70% have received both doses.

### Local Media Updates *(Since Aug 10, 2021 Partner Update)*

- How many coronavirus cases are there in Simcoe County and Muskoka? ([article](#))
- Tracking the COVID vaccine rollout in Simcoe County and Muskoka ([article](#))
- 70% of region's COVID cases among unvaccinated ([article](#))
- Muskoka Woods to reopen following COVID-19 outbreak ([article](#))
- Orillia university makes COVID-19 vaccines mandatory for students, staff ([article](#))

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

#### Ontario *(As of August 17, 2021 at 10:29)*

Total cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
556,920	2,611	543,422	9,431

#### As of yesterday:

- There were 348 new cases, 280 resolved cases, and 10 deaths in the last day.
- Of the 348 new cases, 203 are unvaccinated, 49 are partially vaccinated and 79 are fully vaccinated.
- A total of 163 people are hospitalized with COVID-19, 127 people are in intensive care units (ICU) due to COVID-related critical illness, and 78 people are on ventilators.
- A total of 20,254,502 vaccine doses have been administered. 71.59% of all Ontarians have received their first vaccine dose and 64.67% have been fully vaccinated.
- Of all eligible Ontarians 12 years of age and older 81.14% have at least one dose and 72.23% are fully vaccinated.
- There are currently 77 active COVID-19 outbreaks in Ontario.

#### Since the last Partner Update:

- There have been 2,324 new cases, 1,351 recoveries, and 52 deaths.
- There are 921 more active cases compared to the same day last week.
- There are 4 fewer people hospitalized, the same number of people in the ICU, and 6 fewer people on ventilators compared to the same day last week.
- The 7-day average number of new daily cases is 269.

Regional updates:

- Areas with the highest number of active cases per 100,000 population: Hamilton (36.81), Windsor-Essex County (36.72), Grey Bruce (28.84)

Weekly Epidemiological Summary highlights:

- There are a total of 553,449 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ontario reported to date.
- Compared to the previous day, this represents:
  - An increase of 324 confirmed cases (percent change of +0.9%)
  - An increase of 3 deaths (percent change of +50.0%)
  - An increase of 204 resolved cases (percent change of +2.0%)

For more provincial data, see: [Ontario COVID-19 case data](#), [Public Health Ontario Data Tool](#), [Daily Epidemiologic Summaries](#) and [Weekly Epidemiologic Summaries](#)

<b>Canada (As of August 17, 2021 at 19:00 EDT)</b>			
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>Active Cases</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
1,457,698	19,711	1,411,268	26,719

Yesterday:

- Canada reported 1,725 new cases and 15 new deaths.
- Most cases (64.4%) and deaths (77.4%) were reported by Ontario and Quebec.

Since the last Partner Update:

- In the last week, 14,269 people tested positive for COVID-19, 37 people died

Key vaccine updates as of August 13, 2021:

- 71.4% of the population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, including 81.5% of those ages 12 and older.
- 62% of the population has been fully vaccinated, including 71% of those ages 12 and older.

Cases reported since the start of the vaccination campaign, as of July 31, 2021

Since the start of the vaccination campaign on December 14, 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) received case-level vaccine history data for 75.5% (n=624,980) of COVID-19 cases aged 12 years or older.

Of these cases:

- 557,831 (89.3%) were unvaccinated at the time of their episode date
- 32,980 (5.3%) were not yet protected by the vaccine, as their episode date occurred less than 14 days after their first dose
- 30,197 (4.8%) were only partially vaccinated, as their episode date occurred either 14 days or more after their first dose or less than 14 days after their second dose
- 3,972 (0.6%) were fully vaccinated, as their episode date occurred 14 days or more after their second dose

Weekly epidemiology report: August 1-7, 2021:

- During week 31 (01 August to 07 August 2021), Canada reported moderate and increasing COVID-19 activity compared to the previous week (week 30: 25 July to 31 July 2021). Out of all the other provinces and territories, only Nunavut reported no COVID-19 activity for week 31.
- There was an average of 1,129 new cases reported daily during week 31, representing a 58% increase compared to the previous week. Following a decrease in the number of

cases reported since mid-April 2021, the daily number of reported cases has been gradually increasing since mid-July 2021.

- During week 31, three provinces and territories (Manitoba, Yukon and Nunavut) reported a decrease or no new cases, compared to the previous week.
- Daily rates of cases per 100,000 population are increasing as of mid-July 2021. Among both males and females, case rates are highest among individuals in the 20-39 years age groups and lowest among individuals in the 60 to 79 and 80 years and older age groups.

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

<b>Global (As of August 18, 2021 at 16:06 CET)</b>	
<b>Confirmed Cases</b>	<b>Confirmed Deaths</b>
208,470,375	4,377,979
<p><u>In the last 24 hours:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 542,708 new cases and 6,739 deaths.</li> <li>• U.S.A, Iran, United Kingdom, India and Russia reported the most new cases and Indonesia, Russia, Iran, India and Vietnam reported the most new deaths.</li> </ul> <p><u>In the past week:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 4.4 million new cases and more than 66,000 deaths were reported.</li> <li>• U.S.A., Iran, India, United Kingdom and Brazil reported the most new cases and Indonesia, Brazil, Russia, U.S.A. and Iran reported the most new deaths.</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 August 10, 2021 Partner Update)*

### **Provincial Updates**

#### The Ontario Government:

- COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations ([guidance document](#))
- Ontario Makes COVID-19 Vaccination Policies Mandatory for High-Risk Settings ([news release](#))
- Ontario's Updated COVID-19 Vaccination Eligibility ([news release](#))
- Ontario Working with Public Health Units to Run COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics in Schools ([news release](#))
- COVID-19: health and safety measures at schools ([webpage](#))

#### Public Health Ontario published:

- Mask Wearing in Children and COVID-19 – What we know so far ([report](#))

#### Other Provincial News:

- Ontario to offer third COVID-19 dose to high-risk populations ([article](#))
- TDSB announces new health and safety guidelines for elementary and secondary schools ([article](#))
- Ontario halts reopening as province warns of 'difficult fall and winter' ahead ([article](#))



## ***National Updates***

### The Government of Canada:

- Government of Canada negotiates additional agreement with Moderna for vaccine supply beyond 2021 ([news release](#))
- Government of Canada makes rapid antigen tests available to more small and medium-sized organizations through new pharmacy partners ([news release](#))
- Government of Canada announces new investment in diabetes research ([news release](#))
- Government of Canada is reaching thousands of Canada's most vulnerable during COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Government of Canada to require vaccination of federal workforce and federally regulated transportation sector ([news release](#))
- Government of Canada funds research on responding to possible adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination ([news release](#))
- Statements from the Chief Public Health Officer: [Aug 13](#), [Aug 11](#)

### Other National News:

- Why it's now more likely you'll face coronavirus — even if you're vaccinated against COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Federal election 2021: Union criticizes party leaders' promises to discipline unvaccinated government workers ([article](#))

## **SMDHU Resources**

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

### **Getting your vaccination**

- Added information about new eligibility and the information about [local pop-up clinics](#) continues to be updated.

**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](#)