

## COVID-19 Update for Partners

September 9, 2021

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

#### **Vaccination coverage chart for COVID-19 monitoring dashboard website**

- I am pleased to report that as of September 1, Simcoe Muskoka has met the provincial target of 75% dose 2 vaccine coverage for the eligible population (12+ years).
- This target was set for the provincial exit from Step 3 of the provincial roadmap, although the province has since paused on that exit. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) and local health care partners are now continuing our 'last mile' work to reach the remaining eligible unvaccinated population, towards the next provincial target of 90% for dose 1 and dose 2 coverage, which helps us achieve herd immunity.

#### **Exposures and outbreaks of COVID-19 in our community**

- Despite the progress we have made with vaccination, we continue to see increasing numbers of community and workplace exposures and outbreaks.
- Local rates of infection caught up to the provincial rate of COVID-19 infection which is extremely concerning and is a bellwether for what is to come if we don't act now.
- During the week of August 29, cases among children and youth are increasing and now make up 13% of all current cases, previously they made up only 9% of all cases.
- This also means that the proportion of our cases that are under 12 years has doubled since January.
- Over the last 4 weeks, 75% of cases have been unvaccinated. The rate of COVID-19 infection among the unvaccinated vaccine-eligible population is 10 times higher than it is for the fully vaccinated population.
- Exposures and outbreaks are stemming from interactions and movement in the community with fewer public health measures in place and the potential for interactions with unimmunized individuals.
- We are seeing more areas being impacted including settings we have not seen in the past, such as camps, sports teams and leisure activities.
- As children born after 2009 are unable to receive the vaccine, they rely on public health measures and those around them being vaccinated, including parents and other family members, caregivers, coaches and teachers.

- If you work with children, if you are a parent, get immunized – it's the only way we can keep kids in school, in sports and extra curriculars.
- Each person who receives their COVID-19 vaccine brings us one step closer to herd immunity.
- Getting your two doses of an approved vaccine reduces your chance of becoming seriously ill, being hospitalized, or dying from COVID-19.
- Everyone, including individuals who are fully vaccinated, is reminded to continue to practice public health measures including staying home when feeling ill, maintaining a physical distance of at least 2 metres from those living outside of your household and wearing a mask when physical distancing is not possible, covering your cough, and washing your hands regularly.

#### **Vaccinations are available at several locations throughout the region**

- Pop-up clinics – listed on our [website](#)
- 29 Sperling Dr. in Barrie as a [walk-in](#) or with a [booked appointment](#)
- [Indigenous Community Clinics](#)
- [Local participating pharmacy](#)
- Some health care providers

#### **Return to school**

- This week marks the return to school for many families.
- In-person learning offers many positive benefits to the overall health and well-being of children and youth.
- As we return to school it's important that each child be screened for symptoms using the [Ministry of Health's screening tool](#) before they leave home for the day. The purpose of the screening tool is to help parents and guardians make decisions about whether their child can attend school or child care.
- Screening and testing among those that are possible cases or identified contacts are very important measures that help to prevent COVID-19 being carried into schools.
- Children attending child care or elementary school must be screened by a parent or guardian, while high school students may screen themselves.
- Even if you or your child is fully vaccinated, you must continue with daily screening and testing if you or your child have one or more COVID-19 symptom.
- While screening is a valuable tool, it is essential that all eligible individuals, particularly those who have, live with, or work with children under 12 get vaccinated to protect schools and school communities.
- If you have children who are unable to be vaccinated, protect them by getting vaccinated and by supporting those turning 12 and above to get vaccinated.

#### **Live Q & A for parents and students on COVID-19 vaccines**

- This event took place at 7:00 p.m. on September 8, 2021.
- A brief presentation by Dr. Lee and Dr. Barker was provided about COVID-19 vaccines and consent.
- A 30 minute question and answer session was moderated through the chat function of the virtual platform.
- A summary of the questions and answers will be posted soon to our [website](#).

#### **Third doses for residents of long-term care homes and First Nation Elder care lodges**

- The health unit continues to support long-term care homes (LTCH), higher-risk licensed retirement homes and First Nations Elder care lodges as they move towards having all eligible residents receive a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine before September 17, 2021.

- Evidence shows that several months after receiving two COVID-19 vaccine doses, the immune response in residents who live in LTCHs wanes significantly compared to the general population. Administering a third dose to residents of high-risk congregate settings (LTCHs, higher-risk licensed retirement homes and First Nations Elder care lodges) can help boost their immune response for improved protection against COVID-19. At this time, we are only authorized by the province to offer third doses to residents.

### Vaccination Certificate

- Further to the information provided in last week's partner update and in keeping with the [provincial media release](#) of the vaccine certificate announcement on September 1, SMDHU has not received further details on the program which is set to initiate on September 22, 2021. Once additional details of the vaccine certificate are provided, SMDHU will communicate with its partners and provide further details through various media channels including the partner update.

*Dr. Gardner's next media briefing will take place on Wednesday, September 15 at 1:30 p.m. Previous SMDHU MOH media briefings are posted on the SMDHU [Facebook](#) page and [YouTube](#) channel.*

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of Sept 9, 2021)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
13,063	245	12,562	256
<p>As of the last update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 people became cases, there were 27 newly resolved cases, there were 2 new hospitalizations, and there were no new deaths.</li> </ul> <p>Currently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been 98 new cases reported to the health unit for the current week. There were 202 new cases reported to the health unit last week (week of August 29th), 36% higher than the 148 cases reported for the week of August 22nd.</li> <li>• 15 Simcoe Muskoka residents are hospitalized with COVID-19.</li> <li>• There are 167 active variant cases.*</li> <li>• There has been a total of 768 confirmed cases of the Delta variant in Simcoe Muskoka.</li> <li>• There are 5 active COVID-19 outbreaks.</li> </ul> <p>Since the last Partner Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have reported 154 new cases, 127 resolved cases, and no new deaths.</li> <li>• There are 27 more active cases compared to the same day last week.</li> <li>• There are 2 more active COVID-19 outbreaks.</li> </ul> <p>For more local data, see: <a href="#">SMDHU 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 Sept 9, 2021)*

Total # immunized with first dose	Total # immunized with second dose
439,711	402,459

### Highlights:

- As of September 7, 2021, SMDHU, in partnership with the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH), regional health sector, municipal partnerships, and local primary care teams have administered over 686,350 vaccine doses which includes approximately 10,450 first doses and over 5,170 second doses of AstraZeneca vaccine administered by primary care teams in Simcoe Muskoka.
- Approximately 83% of Simcoe Muskoka adults 12 years of age and older have received at least one dose of vaccine and 76.5% have received both doses.
- Unvaccinated individuals are 8 times more likely to catch COVID-19, 29 times more likely to be in hospital and 48 times more likely to be a patient in the intensive care unit (ICU) compared with people who are vaccinated. ([Public Health Ontario. Enhanced Epidemiological Summary](#)).

## Local Media Updates *(Since Sept 2, 2021 Partner Update)*

- With 'atypical' rise in COVID case transmission, Gardner suggests reducing social contacts ([article](#))
- Virtual Q&A about vaccines set for tonight for parents, students ([article](#))
- Province's vaccine passports 'positive for businesses,' says local chamber boss ([article](#))
- Health unit issues warning over potential COVID exposure at Barrie restaurant ([article](#))
- Vaccine receipts printed free at local libraries ([article](#))
- Simcoe Muskoka's top doctor hints at stricter measures amid rising COVID-19 cases ([article](#))
- Does your child have COVID-19 symptoms? Here's what Simcoe Muskoka parents need to know ([article](#))
- Dr. Gandhi urges students to socially distance and avoid gatherings ([article](#))

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

Ontario <i>(As of Sept 9, 2021 at 10:38am)</i>			
Total cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
572,130	6,056	556,495	9,579

### As of yesterday:

- There were 798 new cases, 772 resolved cases, and 10 deaths in the last day.
- Of the 798 new cases, 497 are unvaccinated, 57 are partially vaccinated and 178 are fully vaccinated and 66 are status unknown.
- A total of 365 people are hospitalized with COVID-19, 185 people are in ICUs due to COVID-related critical illness, and 115 people are on ventilators.
- A total of 21,059,297 vaccine doses have been administered. 74% of all Ontarians have received their first vaccine dose and 68% have been fully vaccinated.
- Of all eligible Ontarians 12 years of age and older 84% have at least one dose and 78% are fully vaccinated.
- There are currently 141 active COVID-19 outbreaks in Ontario.

Since the last Partner Update:

- There have been 5,059 new cases, 4,985 recoveries, and 49 deaths.
- There are 25 more active cases compared to the same day last week.
- There are 45 more people hospitalized, 23 more people in the ICU, and 10 more people on ventilators compared to the same day last week.
- The 7-day average number of new daily cases is 723.

Regional updates:

- Areas with the highest number of active cases per 100,000 population: Windsor-Essex County (129.23), Chatham-Kent (106.29), Brant County (86.34), Hamilton (65.86).

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 September 8, 2021 at 19:00 EDT)**

Total Cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
1,529,300	38,351	1,463,843	27,106

Yesterday:

- Canada reported 3,654 new cases and 39 new deaths.
- Most cases were reported in Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia.

Since the last Partner Update:

- In the last week, 26,282 people tested positive for COVID-19, 144 people died.

Key vaccine updates as of September 9, 2021, 8:43 CST:

- 74% of the population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, including 85% of those ages 12 and older.
- 67.8% of the population has been fully vaccinated, including 77.9% of those ages 12 and older.

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

**Global (As of Sept 8, 2021 at 17:29 CEST)**

Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
221,648,869	4,582,388

*Please note that there is a delay in data reporting for the 8 September for a number of countries in the African Region.*

In the last 24 hours:

- There were 482,116 new cases and 7,308 deaths.
- U.S.A, India, United Kingdom, Iran and Turkey reported the most new cases and Russia, Iran, Indonesia, U.S.A, and India reported the most new deaths.

In the past week:

- More than 4.8 million new cases and more than 67,000 deaths were reported.
- U.S.A., India, United Kingdom, Iran, and Turkey reported the most new cases and U.S.A, Russia, Mexico and Brazil reported the most new deaths.

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

## Provincial, National and Global Updates *(Since Sept 2, 2021 Partner Update)*

### ***Provincial Updates***

#### The Ontario Government:

- Students Head Back to Class in Safer Schools ([news release](#))

#### Public Health Ontario published:

- COVID-19: Severity of the Delta (B.1.617.2) Variant in Children ([evidence brief](#))
- COVID-19 Preparedness and Prevention in Elementary and Secondary (K-12) Schools ([checklist](#))

#### Other Provincial News:

- Ontario reports 798 new COVID-19 cases Thursday as more students head back to class ([article](#))
- Ontario confirms there are only two valid medical exemptions from COVID-19 vaccines ([article](#))
- Hosts of private parties in York Region will have to keep a list of guest contact info ([article](#))
- Co-chair of modelling table says lockdown 'could be unavoidable later in fall' if Ontarians don't reduce contacts now ([article](#))
- Ontario sees COVID-19 vaccine appointments double after announcing passport program ([article](#))

### ***National Updates***

#### The Government of Canada:

- Travel Advisory: REMINDER – On September 7, new measures for fully vaccinated international travellers to Canada will come into force ([news release](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on September 3, 2021 ([statement](#))

#### Other National News:

- Canada could see above 15K daily COVID-19 cases next month, Tam says ([article](#))
- Moderna developing single-dose COVID-19, flu combo vaccine ([article](#))
- Canadian hospitals spend \$23,000 on typical COVID-19 patient, report finds ([article](#))
- Average cost for COVID-19 ICU patients estimated at more than \$50,000: report ([article](#))
- Experts recommend using more rapid tests, so why is Canada so far behind other regions ([article](#))
- Schools improve ventilation ahead of new year but parents still not breathing easy ([article](#))
- COVID-19 booster shots likely not needed for most Canadians, experts say ([article](#))
- Alberta's rising COVID-19 cases due to faulty modelling and government inaction, experts say ([article](#))
- 'Boiling point': Alberta doctors warn of health system collapse as COVID cases climb ([article](#))
- Tens of thousands of Quebec health-care workers still unvaccinated as mandatory policy nears ([article](#))

## Global Updates

- Joint COVAX Statement on Supply Forecast for 2021 and early 2022 ([news release](#))

## SMDHU Resources

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

- How to access proof of immunization ([link](#))
- Going to school during COVID-19
  - Families ([link](#))
  - School Administrators and Educators ([link](#))
  - Student Transportation ([link](#))
- Operating your Business Safely ([link](#))

### Updated Resources:

- [Supplemental Guidance Document for School & Child Care Settings](#) (revised September 8, 2021)
- [Supplemental Guidance Document for Food in Schools](#) (revised September 2, 2021)
- [Guidance: When COVID-19 symptoms develop at school or child care](#) (revised September 2, 2021)
- [Guidance: When Students, Staff or Visitors tests positive for COVID-19](#) (revised September 2, 2021)
- [Guidance: When COVID-19 Outbreak is Declared](#) (revised September 2, 2021)
- [Someone at a School or Child Care Centre Tested Positive for COVID-19](#) (revised September 2, 2021)
- [My Child has Been Identified as a Close Contact of Someone Confirmed to Have COVID-19](#) (revised September 7, 2021)
- [Covid-19 Management At Schools](#)

### New Public Health Alerts

COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #35 Third Doses for Residents of Long-Term Care Homes, High-Risk Licensed Retirement Homes and First Nations Elder Homes ([PDF](#))

### 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](#)