

# COVID-19 Update for Partners

September 23, 2021

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## Key issues

### **Enforcement of proof of vaccination**

- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) has taken a measured approach to enforcement throughout the pandemic and we continue to work with our partners to assist businesses and organizations in understanding their responsibilities under the ROA. As such, we will also continue with our proactive and reactive responses to complaints and issues as we receive them. SMDHU will continue to strive to reduce transmission of the virus in our community settings by working with businesses and organizations to adhere to the requirements of the ROA.
- Education, compliance and enforcement of the Reopening Ontario Act (ROA) including the addition of proof of vaccination is enforceable by municipalities (via Bylaw), police, health unit and other provincial agencies.
- Specific to proof of vaccination, SMDHU will take a graduated approach with emphasis on education and communication to ensure businesses and organizations understand their responsibilities under the legislation. We have a number of resources available on our [website](#), as well as staff on our Health Connection lines to assist operators and businesses during this time.

### **COVID-19 precautions in schools and childcare settings**

- The health unit is currently monitoring three small confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks within elementary schools in Bradford and Alliston. Transmission has only occurred within single class cohorts/classrooms and not widespread in the schools. We continue to work closely with school board partners, schools and childcare operators to minimize risk and disruption for other students/staff. Information about current COVID-19 outbreaks is updated daily on weekdays on the SMDHU [website](#).
- If a potential exposure or outbreak is identified at a school/childcare, SMDHU will contact parents/students by letter. Those receiving letters with requirements to isolate must do so under the [Class Order for Self-Isolation](#) issued by SMDHU's medical officer of health and failure to follow this order may result in fines.
- The public is reminded to continue to practice public health measures outside of school/childcare hours to minimize transmission and that anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 must isolate immediately and seek testing at an assessment centre.

### **Revised Section 22 Order for Self-Isolation**

- On Sept. 21, SMDHU revised its [Class Order for Self-Isolation](#). The revisions update the Section 22 Order from May 27, clarifying the expectations regarding COVID-19 testing and outcomes, and explaining the rationale behind them.
- The Class Order for Self-Isolation applies to any person living or present in the County of Simcoe and District of Muskoka who:
  - Has symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated and/or if they get tested.
  - Tests positive for COVID-19.
  - Was a recent close contact with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or who tested positive for COVID-19. This includes caregivers and household members.
  - Is a household member of a person in recent close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

### **Routine immunization clinics to resume in Simcoe Muskoka**

- Starting the week of Sept. 27, SMDHU's Immunization Program will begin the phased reopening of public immunization clinics that were on hold since March 2020, due to the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Immunization clinics will be run at most SMDHU branch offices and at 15 Sperling Dr. in Barrie. Appointments will first be available to individuals 0-6 years of age who are overdue for their routine immunizations, with appointments for adolescent boosters and adult vaccinations becoming available in the following weeks.
- Public immunization clinics are by appointment only and can be booked through the health unit's online booking system at [www.smdhu.org](http://www.smdhu.org) or by calling Health Connection at 705-721-7520.
- The health unit will also resume the School Immunization Program where students are offered Hepatitis B, Meningitis C-ACYW and Human Papillomavirus vaccines at school-based clinics. This year these vaccines will be offered to all Grade 7 and 8 students, with additional catch-up clinics being offered on PA days and over the winter break for those who missed their school clinic, online learners, and students who are in Grade 9 this school year who did not receive both doses of their HPV or Hepatitis B vaccine at school in 2019/2020, due to COVID-19 school closures.
- COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals born before 2010 are available at many pharmacies, through some primary care providers, and at [29 Sperling Dr. in Barrie](#).

*Dr. Gardner's next media briefing will take place on Wednesday, October 6 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 23, 2021)*

Total Cases	Active Cases	Resolved	Deaths
13,393	161	12,978	259

As of the last update:

- 16 people became cases, there were 40 newly resolved cases, there was no new hospitalizations, and there were no new deaths.

Currently:

- There have been 60 new cases reported to the health unit for the current week. There were 141 new cases reported to the health unit last week (week of September 12th), 28% lower than the 197 cases reported for the week of September 5th.
- 5 Simcoe Muskoka residents are hospitalized with COVID-19.
- There are 5 active COVID-19 outbreaks.

Since the last Partner Update:

- We have reported 118 new cases, 194 resolved cases, and 2 new deaths.
- There are 73 less active cases compared to the same day last week.
- There is 1 more active COVID-19 outbreak.

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 Sept 23, 2021)*

Total # immunized with first dose	Total # immunized with second dose
447,572	414,084

Highlights

- In total 870,935 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Simcoe Muskoka, including doses administered by local pharmacies. 447,572 individuals living in Simcoe Muskoka have received at least one dose of vaccine, which represents 74% of the total population.
- Currently 84% of the population 12 years and older living in Simcoe Muskoka have had at least one dose of vaccine including 82% of youth 12 to 17 years of age who have received at least one dose of vaccine.
- The rate of COVID-19 infection among the unvaccinated vaccine-eligible Simcoe Muskoka population is **12** times higher than it is for the fully vaccinated population and the rate of COVID-19 hospitalizations is **54** times higher.

School Vaccine Clinic Summary

From September 9th to September 17th there were 18 school-based COVID-19 vaccine clinics in Simcoe Muskoka:

- 2,177 total doses administered – 44% were first doses
- 38% of doses went to school-aged children (almost half of these were first doses)

## Local Media Updates *(Since Sept 16, 2021 Partner Update)*

- Health unit resumes public immunization services ([article](#))
- Simcoe Muskoka residents must now show proof of vaccination at some indoor businesses ([article](#))
- Barrie business bombarded by hateful emails about incoming vaccine passports ([article](#))
- Enforcing new vaccine passports a challenge for businesses: Downtown Barrie BIA ([article](#))
- Barrie's MacLaren Art Centre reopens to public after COVID-19 shutdown ([article](#))
- 'By the time they reach the ICU they know they should have gotten their shot,' RVH physician says ([article](#))
- Barrie library offers help printing out vaccination certificates ([article](#))
- Beginning tomorrow, you'll need proof of vaccine to enter some city facilities ([article](#))
- Lakehead to host 'Vaccine and the Charter' panel discussion ([article](#))
- Area school boards report staff vaccination rates between 62 and 86 per cent ([article](#))

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

<b>Ontario</b> <i>(As of Sept 23, 2021 at 10:39)</i>			
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>Active Cases</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
581,908	5,845	566,386	9,677
<p><u>As of yesterday:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 677 new cases, 676 resolved cases, and 7 deaths in the last day.</li> <li>• Of the 677 new cases, 278 are unvaccinated, 21 are partially vaccinated and 131 are fully vaccinated and 33 are status unknown.</li> <li>• A total of 307 people are hospitalized with COVID-19, 193 people are in intensive care units (ICU) due to COVID-related critical illness, and 134 people are on ventilators.</li> <li>• A total of 21,283,180 vaccine doses have been administered. 74% of all Ontarians have received their first vaccine dose and 69% have been fully vaccinated.</li> <li>• Of all eligible Ontarians 12 years of age and older 85% have at least one dose and 79% are fully vaccinated.</li> <li>• There are currently 146 active COVID-19 outbreaks in Ontario.</li> </ul> <p><u>Since the last Partner Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been 4,655 new cases, 4,894 recoveries, and 45 deaths.</li> <li>• There are 284 less active cases compared to the same day last week.</li> <li>• There are 41 less people hospitalized, 2 more people in the ICU, and 14 less people on ventilators compared to the same day last week.</li> <li>• The 7-day average number of new daily cases is 665.</li> </ul> <p><u>Regional updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas with the highest number of active cases per 100,000 population: Chatham-Kent (95), Brant County (78), Windsor-Essex County (76) Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (58)</li> </ul> <p>For more provincial data, see: <a href="#">Ontario COVID-19 case data</a>, <a href="#">Public Health Ontario Data Tool</a>, <a href="#">Daily Epidemiologic Summaries</a> and <a href="#">Weekly Epidemiologic Summaries</a></p>			
<b>Canada</b> <i>(As of September 22, 2021 at 19:00 EDT)</i>			
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>Active Cases</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
1,589,602	44,796	1,517,269	27,537

Yesterday:

- Canada reported 3,882 new cases and 49 new deaths.
- Most cases were reported in Alberta, Quebec, Ontario and B.C.

Since the last Partner Update:

- In the last week, 30,195 people tested positive for COVID-19, 232 people died

Key vaccine updates as of September 16, 2021 23:36 CST:

- 75.6% of the population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, including 86.9% of those ages 12 and older.
- 69.6% of the population has been fully vaccinated, including 79.9% of those ages 12 and older.

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

**Global (As of Sept 22, 2021 at 15:06 CEST)**

Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths
229,373,963	4,705,111

In the last 24 hours:

- There were 545,201 new cases and 7,797 deaths.
- U.S.A, United Kingdom, Turkey, India, Russia and Iran reported the most new cases and U.S.A, Russia, India, Iran, Malaysia and Mexico reported the most new deaths.

In the past week:

- Approximately 3.7 million new cases and more than 62,000 deaths were reported.
- U.S.A., Brazil, India, United Kingdom, Turkey and Russia reported the most new cases and U.S.A, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Iran and Malaysia 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 16, 2021 Partner Update)**

**Provincial Updates**

The Ontario Government:

- Schools Continue to Remain Safe for In-person Learning ([statement](#))

Public Health Ontario:

- Ontario COVID-19 Data Tool ([interactive report](#))

Other Provincial News:

- Restaurant staff seeking proof of vaccination receive threats, verbal abuse ([article](#))
- Ford calls for patience as Ontario's vaccine certificate system kicks in, 463 new COVID-19 cases logged ([article](#))
- Ontario's vaccine passport: What you need to know ([article](#))
- Brampton mayor worried province is putting vaccine certificate enforcement costs 'on the backs of municipalities' ([article](#))
- Ontario reports 179 new COVID-19 cases in schools ([article](#))

## ***National Updates***

### The Government of Canada:

- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on September 17, 2021 ([statement](#))

### Other National News:

- Divorced Sask. parents fight in court over COVID-19 vaccination for teen daughter ([article](#))
- Man assaults Sherbrooke nurse after she vaccinated wife without his 'consent', police say ([article](#))
- Regulator warns N.L. doctors against spreading COVID-19 misinformation online ([article](#))
- Top doctor reviewing plan to lift Nova Scotia's mask mandate ([article](#))
- Federal support needed but won't solve Alberta's COVID-19 crisis quickly, doctors say ([article](#))
- Poll workers say Elections Canada put them at risk of contracting COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Canada plans to lift ban on flights from India next week with new COVID-19 protocols ([article](#))
- Alberta asks Ottawa for help to airlift COVID-19 patients out of the province ([article](#))
- 'Waning immunity' concept around COVID-19 vaccines misunderstood by public, experts say ([article](#))
- Canadian children 5 to 11 could become eligible for COVID-19 vaccine next month ([article](#))
- Pfizer Canada cites 'urgency' in plans to seek authorization for kids' COVID vaccine ([article](#))
- Anxiety and depression remain high despite rising vaccination rates and easing of pandemic restrictions, poll finds ([article](#))
- BC nurses in turmoil as province pushes mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for health care workers ([article](#))
- As COVID-19 vaccine passports kick in, doctors see a rise in medical exemption requests – but few patients who actually qualify ([article](#))

## ***Global Updates***

- Biden convenes global COVID-19 summit, U.S. pledges to share more vaccines ([article](#))
- U.S. parents weigh risks, benefits as COVID-19 vaccine for kids nears approval ([article](#))

## **SMDHU Resources**

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

- COVID-19- Proof of vaccination status ([link](#))
  - Revised: Class Order for Self-Isolation ([PDF](#))
  - Revised: Class Order to Protect the Health of All Temporary Foreign Workers ([PDF](#))
  - Updated: Class Order for Self-isolation- Revised Sep 21, 2021 ([link](#))
- Stop the Spread:
  - Updated: Marinas (including boating clubs and other organizations that maintain docking facilities ([link](#))
  - Updated: Planning your wedding during COVID-19 ([link](#))
  - Updated: How to attend a wedding, funeral or other religious ceremony safely ([link](#))
- Getting your vaccination ([link](#))

- Proof of vaccination ([link](#))
- Going to School
  - School Administrators and Educators- Updated: Resources for school staff and families ([link](#))
- COVID-19 assessment centres and testing ([link](#))
- Operating your Business Safely ([link](#))
  - Updated: COVID-19 proof of vaccination requirement ([link](#))
  - Updated: Resources for employers and workplaces ([link](#))
  - Updated: Curling clubs ([PDF](#))
  - Updated: Employers of temporary foreign workers ([link](#))
  - Updated: Facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities ([link](#))
  - Updated: Food operators ([PDF](#))
  - Updated: Marinas (including boating clubs and other organizations that maintain docking facilities ([link](#))
  - Updated: Organized public events and gatherings ([link](#))
  - Updated: Outdoor recreational amenities ([link](#))
  - Updated: Recreational water facilities ([link](#))
  - Updated: Retail businesses and shopping malls ([PDF](#))
- Partners and Municipalities- COVID-19 proof of vaccination requirement ([link](#))
  - Updated: Faith-based organizations ([link](#))
  - Updated: Outdoor recreational amenities ([link](#))
  - Public signage: Proof of vaccination ([link](#))
- Reporting Complaints
  - Updated: Complaints about businesses ([link](#))
- For parents and parents-to-be during COVID-19 ([link](#))

### **New Public Health Alerts**

- COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #37 Ongoing Provision of COVID-19 Vaccine, Resumption of Public Health Routine Immunization Clinics and Fall Planning for Immunization ([PDF](#))
- COVID-19 Case & Contact Management: Update #34 Revised Case and Contact Management ([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](#)