

November 26, 2021

To the CAOs of the municipalities within the County of Simcoe and District of Muskoka:

**Re: Request for SMDHU Notification of Larger Sporting and Recreational Events:**

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) recognizes the significant benefits of sport and recreation on physical and mental health and well-being. Facilities where sports and recreation take place bring the public together to participate, watch and/or cheer on sport and recreation activities, requiring diligence on behalf of our community facility operators to ensure they operate safely in accordance with the provincial and local rules pertaining to COVID-19. The SMDHU is currently at Step 3 of the province's Roadmap to Reopen. Further, on November 23, SMDHU released two letters of instruction for [businesses/organizations](#) and [recreational and sporting facilities](#) that we encourage you to review and adhere to. At Step 3 of [Ontario Regulation 364/20 Rules for Areas at Step 3 and the Roadmap Exit Step](#) (O. Reg. 364/20) under the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Approach to COVID-19\) Act, 2020](#), tournaments, showcases, competitions and other sporting and recreational fitness events are permitted to occur with restrictions in place such as active screening, contact information, and face coverings amongst several requirements. However, given current transmission trends of the COVID-19 virus in our community, I ask for your ongoing commitment to adhering to the requirements under my letters of instruction and Ontario Regulation 364/20 under the Reopening Ontario Act and request you regularly consult with SMDHU when large gatherings take place.

You are likely aware that the [SMDHU website](#) contains a wealth of information for the sports and recreation sectors in the form of content and guidance documents to assist you with your planning and preparation for sporting and recreational activities. SMDHU staff are available for consultation on the operational and logistics aspects of sporting and recreational activities, in particular events that span over multiple days and involve participants and spectators from outside of Simcoe and Muskoka. SMDHU can assist you and your organization with regulatory and local requirements, and how you may proceed in keeping with the safety of all participants, officiants, spectators, facility staff and volunteers in mind. We are also able to assist in contingency discussions and planning associated with scenarios such as a COVID-19 positive case during such gatherings (e.g., tournaments, competitions, showcases) that are a part of your COVID-19 safety plan.

In accordance with information provided above, I am formally requesting that you advise SMDHU of larger sporting and recreational events at least two weeks prior to the event occurring. This notification would be provided through you to SMDHU for activities and/or events that take place at multiple venues, occur over multiple days, and/or have an attendance of over 1000 persons (participants, spectators and staff). Notification should be provided to an SMDHU Public Health Inspector using the following options:

- By phone at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8811, Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm, or
- By email at [HC.PHI@smdhu.org](mailto:HC.PHI@smdhu.org)

**Barrie:**  
15 Sperling Drive  
Barrie, ON  
L4M 6K9  
705-721-7520  
FAX: 705-721-1495

**Collingwood:**  
280 Pretty River Pkwy.  
Collingwood, ON  
L9Y 4J5  
705-445-0804  
FAX: 705-445-6498

**Cookstown:**  
2-25 King Street S.  
Cookstown, ON  
L0L 1L0  
705-458-1103  
FAX: 705-458-0105

**Gravenhurst:**  
2-5 Pineridge Gate  
Gravenhurst, ON  
P1P 1Z3  
705-684-9090  
FAX: 705-684-9887

**Huntsville:**  
34 Chaffey St.  
Huntsville, ON  
P1H 1K1  
705-789-8813  
FAX: 705-789-7245

**Midland:**  
A-925 Hugel Ave.  
Midland, ON  
L4R 1X8  
705-526-9324  
FAX: 705-526-1513

**Orillia:**  
120-169 Front St. S.  
Orillia, ON  
L3V 4S8  
705-325-9565  
FAX: 705-325-2091

Together we can ensure that these events proceed in the safest manner for everyone involved. If you have any questions, please contact Health Connection as noted above.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL Signed By:**

Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health

CG:SR:cm