

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit COVID-19 TIMELINE

2020

JAN 22

- First COVID-19 case reported in North America

JAN 24

- SMDHU activates its Incident Management System (IMS)

MAR 12

- Publicly funded schools in Ontario ordered to close

MAR 11

- World Health Organization declares COVID-19 as a pandemic
- Wave 1** of pandemic starts in Simcoe Muskoka
- First case confirmed in Simcoe Muskoka

JAN 25

- First COVID-19 case identified in Ontario

MAR 17

- Ontario declares State of Emergency
- First Ontario COVID-19 death reported in Simcoe Muskoka

APR 7

- Planning begins with community partners for local assessment centres

APR 10

- Ontario expands COVID-19 testing to high-risk groups as defined by provincial orders

JUN 24

- SMDHU issues Section 22 Class Order to employers of farm workers putting in place measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission on farms

MAY 18

- SMDHU in partnership with regional teams conducts the first round of long-term care and retirement homes surveillance testing

APR 26

- Simcoe Muskoka Congregate Setting COVID-19 Response Plan Committee begins meeting

JUN 25

- North Simcoe Muskoka Regional COVID-19 Surveillance and Testing Strategy Committee begins meeting

JUL 7

- SMDHU issues Letter of Instruction to businesses and organizations requiring face coverings in indoor public spaces

JUL 24

- Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act comes into force

SEP 19

- Ontario reduces the size of private gatherings to 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors

SEP 8

- Publicly funded schools in Ontario reopen

AUG 3

- Wave 2** of pandemic starts in Simcoe Muskoka

OCT 2

- Ontario announces province-wide mask policy

OCT 6

- SMDHU issues Section 22 Class Order instructing anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or is identified as a close contact to self-isolate

NOV 3

- SMDHU issues Section 22 Class Order restricting the number of visitors allowed indoors at local long-term care homes

NOV 24

- Medical Officer of Health issues special statement to the community recommending additional public health measures be taken

NOV 23

- SMDHU issues Letter of Instruction requiring businesses and organizations to employ additional precautions to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in work settings

NOV 3

- Ontario introduces a system for COVID-19 restrictions based on viral spread and hospital capacity within a community

DEC 22

- SMDHU begins COVID-19 vaccinations for eligible individuals in partnership with Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre

DEC 26

- Ontario issues province-wide shutdown