

COVID-19 Update for Partners

January 13, 2021

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Key messages from Dr. Gardner, Medical Officer of Health

Province declares second Provincial Emergency

- Ontario [announced the second Provincial Emergency](#), issuing a stay-at-home order, enhanced enforcement measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission, and amending regulations under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*. Further review is needed to clarify the role public health will play related to the newly announced regulations and enforcement measures. These measures will come into effect between Tuesday, January 12, 2021 and Thursday, January 14, 2021.

Vaccine and immunization update

- Supply of the vaccine remains limited and continues to be offered by appointment only to priority groups identified by the provincial government, including residents, staff and essential caregivers from congregate living settings (e.g. long-term care homes and retirement homes), as well as prioritized hospital workers.
- A vacancy management process is in place at the Barrie clinic to bring people in from priority groups currently being immunized to ensure that doses are not wasted at the end of clinics.
- With approvals and protocols in place to allow the Pfizer vaccine to safely be moved, yesterday Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) announced residents of long-term care (LTC) and retirement homes (RH) in Simcoe Muskoka will begin receiving the COVID-19 vaccine at their place of residence. It is expected LTC vaccinations will be completed by the end of this week and vaccinations at RH will begin next week.
- Plans to immunize health care workers outside of hospitals and the rest of the population are in development utilizing the provincial guidance documents.
- SMDHU is launching a Simcoe-Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Advisory Committee to advise planning and coordination of vaccination for the general public residing within the geographic boundaries of the SMDHU. The committee includes representation from: public health, primary care, hospitals, pharmacies, long-term care, paramedic services, Local Health Integration Networks, Indigenous communities and organizations serving Indigenous peoples.

Reporting on HealthSTATS pages changing

- To avoid confusion and provide a better indication of changes to case numbers week over week, we have transitioned to reporting cases by 'date reported to the health unit' instead of 'date we reported the cases publicly'.
- A new table has also been added to the [COVID-19 HealthSTATS webpage](#) that shows the changing case, hospitalization and death numbers over the most recent three week period.
- The outbreak section has been expanded to include more detailed information and now each outbreak setting will have its own table that will include the name, number of cases and outbreak status. Categories of outbreaks will be more detailed (e.g. congregate settings will be identified on these charts as group homes, shelters). Private businesses/workplace outbreaks will continue to be described by sector with no names of businesses unless there is a need to share the business name to reach members of the public who may be at risk and who could not be reached by contact tracing.
- We have changed the way outbreak-related cases are reported on the [HealthMAPS COVID-19 Case explorer](#) on the [COVID-19 HealthSTATS webpage](#). In order to strengthen the privacy of confirmed COVID-19 cases, we will no longer specify details on the setting type of outbreak-related cases on the detail line list.

Impact of holiday gatherings on local COVID-19 case numbers

- SMDHU has been collecting information from COVID-19 cases investigated regarding attendance at gatherings with non-household members over the holiday period from December 20, 2020 onwards. Overall, since December 20, 2020, 21% of cases identified that they had attended a holiday gathering with non-household members.
 - 75% reported attending gatherings with family.
 - 25% reported attending gatherings where friends were also present.
 - The number of contacts exposed to each case via holiday gathering(s) ranged from 2 to 22 people, with a median number of contacts of 6 people.

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

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of January 13, 2021 14:00)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
4,447	1,205	3,138	81
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the last day 81 new cases have been reported, 72 people have recovered and 6 people have died. • Since the last Partner Update there have been about 475 new cases, over 500 people have recovered, and 11 additional deaths. • For the current week to date there have been 195 new cases reported to the health unit. • For the week of January 3-9, 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There were 491 new cases reported to the health unit last week, ○ The average daily growth in confirmed cases was 1.8%. • There are fewer active cases in Simcoe Muskoka than one week ago: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 42% of all active cases are among children and adults 0-34 years, ○ There are 369 active cases (31%) in adult 18-34 years of age and 351 active cases (29%) in adults 45-64 years of age. • There are currently 37 people hospitalized in Simcoe Muskoka, 10 more than yesterday. • There are currently 23 ongoing outbreaks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 12 in institutional settings (6 in LTC, 4 RH, 2 hospitals), 			

- 5 in workplace settings (1 each in retail trade, real estate, rental & leasing, finance and insurance, public administration, and food processing),
- 5 in congregate settings (2 group homes, 2 other, 1 shelter),
- 1 in a community setting (food and beverage service), and
- 0 in educational settings.
- There were 234 new COVID-19 tests per 10,000 population in Simcoe County and 123 tests per 10,000 population in Muskoka District for the most recent week. In comparison, the provincial testing rate was 263 tests per 10,000 population.
- The current percent positivity rate is 3.7% for Simcoe which is the highest it has been since April and 0.4% for Muskoka. The provincial percent positivity rate is 6.2%
- Based on projections, if this level of growth continues there will be approximately 750 cases reported during the week of January 31st - February 6th, or about 107 cases per day with a projected weekly incidence rate of 125 cases per 100,000 population.

SMDHU [COVID-19 HealthSTATS page](#) and the [COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard](#)

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccine* Data (As of January 13, 2021 14:00)

Total doses administered	Doses administered previous day
8,616	451
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date more than 8,600 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Simcoe Muskoka (not including South Simcoe*), mainly to health care workers in local hospitals, long-term care and retirement homes. This includes over 250 individuals that have received both of the required doses of the vaccine. • Vaccination of long-term care residents began on January 11th with 178 residents receiving their first dose. <p>* Vaccine administration data is for North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN area only (which does not include Bradford, Adjala Tosorontio, Alliston and New Tecumseth). Vaccinations in South Simcoe area are being administered by Southlake Regional Health Centre.</p>	

Local Media Updates (Since Jan. 6, 2021 Partner Update)

- Shipment of Moderna vaccine destined for Simcoe-Muskoka diverted ([article](#))
- Nearly 150 area COVID cases reported in January linked to gatherings ([article](#))
- Bradford has highest COVID incidence rate in the region ([article](#))
- Outbreak situation at Roberta Place ‘very concerning’, says Gardner ([article](#))
- Paramedics anxious to roll up their sleeves for COVID-19 vaccine ([article](#))
- What the new state of emergency means for retailers ([article](#))
- “This year has changed tourism”: Collingwood-area tourism industry struggling because of COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Waypoint declares COVID outbreak in high-security unit ([article](#))
- COVID-19 outbreak declared at Barrie hospital ([article](#))
- Barrie field hospital slowly ramping up to take pressure off GBGH, other health-care facilities ([article](#))
- Beausoleil First Nation to remain in lockdown ([article](#))
- “We are grateful:” Front-line staff at Alliston hospital among first to get COVID-19 vaccine ([article](#))
- Tourism businesses encouraged to apply for COVID relief funding ([news release](#))
- Christian Island enters ‘hard lockdown’ after first positive COVID case ([article](#))

- COVID-19 prevention measures working wonders to stop spread of the flu ([article](#))
- Concerns raised over prison vaccination plan and who should be getting shots first ([article](#))
- Health unit looks at wider distribution network when other vaccines arrive ([article](#))
- Muskoka Community Foundation looks at ‘ripple effects’ of COVID-19 on region ([article](#))

Provincial, National and Global COVID-19 Case Status

Ontario (As of January 13, 2021, 10:30)

Total cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
224,984	29,636	190,221	5,127

In the last day:

- There were 2,961 new cases, 3,392 resolved cases, and 74 deaths
- 50,931 tests completed, with a 6% positive rate
- There were over 3,500 more active cases compared to the same day last week
- 11,231 doses of vaccine were administered, with a total of 144,784 doses administered and 8,778 people have received both vaccinations

Of 29,636 currently active cases of COVID-19:

- 51.2% are in females, 48.5% are in males
- Individuals under 40 years of age account for 50% of active infections
- Adults aged 20-29 have the most active cases (6,322), followed by adults aged 30-39 (4,518) and 50-59 (4,224)

In the last week:

- There were over 24,000 new cases
- There were over 20,000 recoveries
- There were 360 deaths

Hospitalizations

- 1,674 people are hospitalized (15% increase from last week)
- 385 people are in ICU (6.5% increase from last week)
- 276 are on ventilators (12% increase from last week)

Outbreaks

- There are currently 1066 ongoing outbreaks including 115 in educational settings, 124 in group living settings, 506 in health care settings, 52 in recreational settings and 258 in workplace settings. Eleven outbreaks have been categorized as unknown or other.

Regional updates

- Areas with the highest number of active cases per 100,000 population: Windsor-Essex (441.91), Peel (401.52), Toronto (320.69), Niagara (270.83), and Middlesex-London (257.72)
- Many health unit regions in northern Ontario experienced the highest % increases in weekly cases from December 28 – January 3 to January 4 – 9, 2021: Porcupine (+625%), Northwestern (+175.8%), Sudbury and District (+175.4%), Algoma (+150.3%), and Thunder Bay (+96.6%)

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

Canada (As of January 12, 2021 at 19:00 EDT)			
Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
674,473	80,793	576,447	17,233
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the last week there were over 55,000 new cases, 1000 deaths and over 50,000 recoveries. There are almost 2,000 more active cases in the country than there was a week ago. <p>On January 12th, Canada reported a previous day increase of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6,294 new cases 149 deaths New cases in ON, QC, AB, BC, SK, MB, NB, NS, and PEI Deaths in QC, ON, AB, BC, MB, SK, and NB <p>From December 27- January 2, 2021 weekly update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was an average of 7,001 new daily cases representing a 9% increase compared to the previous week. The average number of daily deaths reported (117) remained stable since the previous week. All provinces and territories, with the exception of Northwest Territories, reported new cases. Québec reported the highest age-standardized incidence rate of 185.1 cases per 100,000 population. Incidence rates for all age groups increased compared to the previous report with the highest age specific incidence rates in those 80 years of age and over (188.9 per 100,000 population) and those 20 to 29 years of age (166.8 per 100,000 population). Approximately 50% of cases were in individuals under 40 years of age, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16% under 20 years of age 18% between 20 to 29 years of age 16% between 30 to 39 years of age There were 3,259 cases hospitalized and 621 cases in ICU, representing a 5% and 6% decrease in the weekly number of hospitalized and ICU cases compared to December 26, 2020. Please note that the recent decrease is due to lag time in reporting. According to forecasting, between 698,450 and 735,000 cumulative reported cases and 17,610 and 18,530 cumulative numbers of deaths are expected by January 18, 2021. <p>National daily epidemiology updates; National weekly epidemiology report</p>			
Global (As of January 13, 2021 at 09:47 CET)			
Confirmed Cases		Confirmed Deaths	
90,054,813		1,945,610	
<p>In the last day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were almost 350,000 new cases and almost 10,000 deaths. The USA, UK, Brazil, Russia, and India had the most new cases and the USA, Germany, Mexico, Russia, and the UK had the most new deaths. <p>In the past week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 5.2 million new cases were reported globally and deaths surpassed 90,000. The USA, UK, Brazil, Russia and Germany had the most new cases and the USA, Brazil, Mexico, UK and Germany had the most new deaths. 			

Highlights from Weekly Epidemiological Summary as of January 10, 2021:

- All regions apart from South-East Asia showed an increase in new cases, with the Western Pacific, Africa and the Americas reporting increases of over 30%.
- The Region of the Americas accounted for 51% of all new cases and 45% of all new deaths globally in the past week.

In the past 2 weeks:

- Sweden and the United States continue to have the highest reported number of cases per 100,000 population and the United Kingdom has seen a sharp increase in cases per 100,000.

[WHO COVID-19 Disease Dashboard](#); [Previous Situation Reports](#)

Provincial, National and Global Updates *(Since Jan. 6, 2021 Partner Update)*

Provincial Updates

The Ontario Government:

- Plans to vaccinate up to 8.5 million people in Phase Two ([article](#))
- Declares second provincial emergency ([news release](#)) ([backgrounder](#))
- Expanding eligibility for emergency child care in Southern Ontario ([backgrounder](#))
- Continues to support businesses, workers and families ([news release](#))
- Extends teacher-led online learning until January 25 ([news release](#))

Other Provincial News:

- Here's what you need to know about Ontario's new COVID-19 restrictions ([article](#))
- Public health units can shut down Ontario workplaces for COVID. They rarely do ([article](#))
- Ontario releases list of those eligible for COVID-19 vaccine under Phase 2 ([article](#))
- With clownish incompetence, Ontario enacts a new, incomprehensible 'lockdown' ([article](#))
- Ontario's new COVID-19 modelling to show ICUs full by early February: sources ([article](#))
- 'Most serious situation we've ever been in,' Ford says ([article](#))
- Ontario Education Minister says modelling numbers are 'alarming' after 117% spike for young people ([video](#))
- Ontario lockdown may not lift at the end of January: Ford ([article](#))
- Ontario will now allow pregnant, breastfeeding people to access COVID-19 vaccine ([article](#))
- Ontario preparing to transfer hospital patients out of regions worst-hit by COVID-19 ([article](#))

National Updates

From the Government of Canada:

- Government of Canada invests \$1M in a COVID-19 evidence network to support decision-making ([news release](#))
- COVID-19 Evidence Network ([backgrounder](#))
- Federal government invests nearly \$40 million of additional funding to respond to needs of those experiencing or at risk of homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic ([news release](#))
- Canada Revenue Agency to begin issuing T4As to COVID-19 emergency and recovery benefit recipients ([news release](#))
- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on [January 12, 2021](#), [January 11, 2021](#), [January 9, 2021](#), [January 8, 2021](#), [January 7, 2021](#), [January 6, 2021](#)
- Government of Canada to ensure that international travelers cannot access recovery benefits during quarantine ([news release](#))

- CPHO issue [Statement Series](#) on COVID-19: mRNA Vaccines
- Government of Canada COVID-19 Update for Indigenous Peoples and communities ([news release](#))
- Government of Canada announces new policy to help former international students live in, work in and continue contributing to Canada ([news release](#))
- COVID-19 testing centre for arriving international travelers launches at Pearson Airport ([news release](#))
- New pre-departure COVID-19 testing requirements come into effect for all air travelers flying into Canada ([news release](#))
- Correctional Service Canada COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-out ([news release](#))

Other National News:

- Coronavirus: What's happening in Canada and around the world on Wednesday ([article](#))
- Government secures another 20M COVID-19 vaccine doses from Pfizer ([article](#))
- Isolation the real threat for loved ones with dementia, families say ([article](#))
- Starbucks to close up to 300 locations in Canada by the end of March ([article](#))
- This online calculator estimates when you'll receive your COVID-19 vaccine ([article](#))
- Calls to Kids Help Phone soar amid pandemic ([article](#))
- Coronavirus: What's happening in Canada and around the world on Monday ([article](#))
- Ottawa to introduce legislation to close loophole for quarantining travelers ([article](#))
- Some Canadian snowbirds choosing to roost up north this winter ([article](#))
- Trudeau warns tough days ahead as Canadian officials consider extended COVID-19 lockdowns ([article](#))
- Rising cases 'frightening,' PM Trudeau says, vows vaccine rollout will 'scale up' ([article](#))
- The pandemic has taken a toll on mental health in Canada. Will it also change mental health care? ([article](#))
- Improving building ventilation can help control coronavirus spread during winter months ([article](#))
- Coronavirus: What's happening in Canada and around the world on Wednesday ([article](#))
- Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine appears effective against mutation in new coronavirus variants, study suggests ([article](#))
- Canada investigating timing of second coronavirus vaccine dose, Tam says ([video](#))
- Premiers give Trudeau a friendly push to increase vaccine supply ([article](#))
- Addressing mental-health issues linked to pandemic a key task in 2021 ([article](#))
- PM Trudeau 'disappointed' by politicians travelling abroad against advice ([article](#))
- Is 'Dry January' during the pandemic a good idea? ([article](#))
- The argument in favour of COVID-19 immunity passports ([article](#))
- Why eco-labelling is so difficult during the pandemic ([article](#))

Global Updates

The World Health Organization (WHO):

- The Director General noted the [Review Committee interim report](#) found there has been "overwhelming support from Member States and experts for the International Health Regulations as a cornerstone of international public health and health security law. However, there is also agreement that several areas need improving so that the world is better prepared for the next pandemic."
- Director General shared [concerns about vaccination distribution](#) that 85% of the countries who have started vaccinating for COVID-19 are high-income/upper middle-income countries. Vaccine nationalism and inequity is being magnified by countries who are pursuing new deals outside of COVAX offering higher prices for the vaccine. At this time rich countries have bought up the majority of the supply of multiple vaccines. Going forward WHO is encouraging manufacturers to prioritize supply and rollout of vaccines

through COVAX to ensure more equitable distribution of the vaccine. “History will not judge us kindly if we fail the low- and middle-income countries in their hour of need and sharing is in the best interest of each and every country. We can only recover faster as a global community by sharing.”

- [Announced](#) a new variant of the virus was identified in Japan.
- Provided an update on the UK and South Africa variants in “SARS-CoV-2 Variants of concern” in the [January 10, 2021 COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update](#).

WHO published:

- Policy recommendations for the rollout of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine including information about who can take the vaccine ([feature story](#))
- [Interim recommendations](#) for use of the Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, BNT162b2, under Emergency Use Listing
- Standardization of vaccines for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) ([feature story](#))
- The race for a COVID-19 vaccine, explained ([feature story](#))
- Access and allocation: how will there be fair and equitable allocation of limited supplies? ([feature story](#))

SMDHU Resources

- SMDHU [COVID-19 HealthSTATS page](#)
- [SMDHU Vulnerable Populations for COVID-19 Response Interactive Map](#) highlights vulnerable populations in Simcoe Muskoka.
- Current COVID-19 information is available on our [website](#), which has been revised to include information about the Provincial declaration of emergency. Other changes include:
 - [Main COVID webpage](#)
 - **Revised** [Close contacts, gathering and events](#)
 - **Revised** [Travel](#)
 - [Stop the Spread](#)
 - **Revised** [how to safely enjoy physical activity indoors and outdoors](#)
 - **Revised** [how to handle and exchange second hand goods/products](#)
 - **Now includes** [wearing a face covering](#)
 - [Vaccine and Immunization](#)
 - **Added** [Offers of Assistance](#)
 - [Assessment Centres and Testing](#)
 - **Replaced** [“Tested, Now What”](#)
 - [Operating your Business Safely](#)
 - **Changed** “malls and shopping centres” title to [“Retail Operators”](#) and added information about accepting returns.
 - **Updated:** [Ice Fishing Operators expander bar and position statement](#)
- 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 - 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Credible Sources of Information

- [Ontario Ministry of Health](#)
- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)