

## COVID-19 Update for Partners

February 3, 2021

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

- There are no media briefings from Dr. Gardner scheduled for the week of February 1 – 5, 2021.

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

### Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Case Status (As of February 3, 2021 14:00)

Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
5,548	968	4,384	159

#### In the last day:

- 40 people tested positive, 156 people recovered and four people died.

#### Since the last Partner Update:

- We have reported over 300 new cases, 25 deaths over 450 recoveries.
- So far this week there have been 99 new cases reported to the health unit.
- There are 183 fewer active cases.

#### There are currently:

- 38 people hospitalized.
- 25 ongoing outbreaks (institutional settings: 13, workplace settings: 9, educational settings: 3).
- The current percent positivity rate in Simcoe County is 2.2% and 0.3% in the District of Muskoka compared to the provincial percent positivity rate of 3.8%.
- The weekly percent positivity had been highest among youth 10-19 years of age, reaching a high of 7.2% the week of January 17 before dropping to 3.9% last week.
- The weekly positivity rate remained stable among children under 10 years of age last week while dropping among all other age categories.

- To date, 90 local cases have been tested positive for the COVID-19 variant of concern UK B.1.1.7 (up 39 from yesterday) and an additional 57 cases have screened positive (awaiting confirmatory testing).
- Because variants of concern are more contagious, we need to be even more vigilant in our measures against COVID-19. The measures are the same: physical distancing, mask wearing, daily screening of symptoms, testing and self-isolation when one has symptoms, and staying home at this time except for essential activities such as grocery supplies.

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

### Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccine\* Data (As of January 27, 2021 14:00)

Total doses administered	Doses administered previous day
17,737	492
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost 2,000 immunizations have been provided since the last Partner Update.</li> <li>• Over 5,000 Simcoe Muskoka long-term care (LTC) &amp; retirement home staff and essential caregivers received their first dose, and nearly 2,200 of these individuals have received both of the required doses of the vaccine.</li> <li>• 2851 (89%) LTC residents and 2241 (61%) retirement home residents have received their first dose.</li> <li>• Over 5,200 hospital workers and residents in alternate level of care (ALC) in Simcoe Muskoka have received their first dose of the vaccine.</li> <li>• Approximately half of all LTC staff, essential caregivers and hospital employees and physicians have received their first dose of the vaccine. More than one-third of all retirement home staff and essential caregivers have also received the first dose of the vaccine.</li> </ul>	

### Local Media Updates (Since Jan. 27, 2021 Partner Update)

- Waypoint reports fourth death, staff pleads for MPP Jill Dunlop's help ([article](#))
- City of Barrie joins province-wide COVID-19 wastewater surveillance initiative
- Brian Orser Arena closing for remainder of season ([article](#))
- Town of Innisfil hopes contest will encourage young adults to stay home ([article](#))
- RVH ends one COVID-19 outbreak while two others continue in separate unit ([article](#))
- SMDHU will not report COVID-19 numbers on First Nations Territories ([article](#))
- City of Barrie Mayor urges people to hunker down to combat UK variant's spread ([article](#))
- Barrie-Innisfil MPP says 5,000 more vaccine doses coming to the region ([article](#))
- Education ministry accused of not reporting cases in special needs settings ([article](#))
- Workers in the sex industry facing COVID challenges in the margins ([article](#))
- Tiny offering safe alternative to Carnaval d'Hiver ([article](#))
- President of Jarlette addresses 'devastating' outbreak at Roberta Place ([article](#))
- 'Voices of Long Term Care' calls for accountability as COVID deaths increase ([article](#))
- Quicker response to deaths ensured hospitals aren't overwhelmed as COVID fatalities rise ([article](#))

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

### Ontario *(As of February 3, 2021, 10:30)*

Total cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
272,097	16,648	248,981	6,305

In the last day:

- There were 1,172 new cases, 1,745 resolved cases, and 67 deaths.
- There are over 5,000 fewer active cases compared to the same day last week.
- A total of 106 cases of the UK variant have been reported and one case of the South African variant.
- 1,066 people were hospitalized, 336 were in intensive care units (ICU) and 254 were on ventilators.
- There were 440 ongoing outbreaks in health care settings (229 in LTC, 129 in RH, 82 in hospitals).
- The current effective reproduction number is 0.84.

In the last week:

- There have been almost 12,000 new cases, 16,500 recoveries, and almost 350 deaths.
- The average number of weekly cases is 1,675.

Vaccines:

- Yesterday 3,716 doses of vaccine were administered, with a total of 348,331 doses administered.
- 74,994 people in Ontario are fully vaccinated having received both immunizations.

Regional updates:

Areas with the highest number of active cases per 100,000 population:

- Peel (262.13), Toronto (211.49), Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (143.43), York (120.64), and Niagara (119.23).

Areas with the highest number of active cases:

- Toronto (5,777), Peel (3,622), York (1,339), Halton (620), and Ottawa (592).

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 February 2, 2021 at 19:00 EDT)*

Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deaths
786,417	49,562	716,642	20,213

- In the last week almost 30,000 people tested positive for COVID-19, over 800 people died and almost 39,000 people recovered.
- There are almost 10,000 less people with active cases of COVID-19 in the country than there was a week ago.

Yesterday:

- Canada reported 2,828 new cases and 77 deaths.
- New cases were reported in all provinces and territories except NFLD, YT, and NU.
- Deaths were reported in QC, ON, AB, BC, and SK.

Between Jan 18<sup>th</sup> and Jan 25<sup>th</sup>

- The number COVID-19 patients hospitalized decreased from 3,874 to 3,256.

- The number COVID-19 patients in ICU beds decreased from 869 to 826 beds.
- The number of COVID-19 patients mechanically vented decreased from 483 to 428.

Weekly update: January 17 - 23, 2021

- New cases decreased 19% compared to the previous week, with an average of 5,756 new cases every day.
- The average number of deaths reported each day increased to 156.
- Case rates are highest amongst those 20 to 30 years of age and those 80 years of age and older.
- Hospitalizations decreased, while ICU admissions remained stable since early January.
- According to forecasting, between 790,700 to 833,420 cumulative reported cases and 20,990 to 21,950 deaths are expected by February 7, 2021.

Key vaccine updates: As of January 23, 2021

- % of population who has received at least one dose: 2.29%
  - % of adults 80 or older who have received at least one dose: 9.32%
  - % of health care workers who have received at least one dose: 48.29%
  - % of adults living in group settings or seniors: 41.84%
- % of population who has received one dose: 2.17%
- % of population who has received two doses: 0.12%

National [daily epidemiology updates](#); National [weekly epidemiology report](#)

<b>Global</b> (As of February 3, 2021 at 9:45 CET)	
<b>Confirmed Cases</b>	<b>Confirmed Deaths</b>
103,201,340	2,237,636

In the last day:

- There were almost 350,000 new cases and almost 9,500 deaths.
- The US, Brazil, UK, Russia, and Argentina reported the most new cases and the US, Germany, Brazil, Mexico, and Russia reported the most deaths.

In the past week :

- Over 3.5 million new cases and over 95,000 deaths were reported.
- The US, Brazil, UK, France, and Russia had the most new cases and the US, Mexico, UK, Brazil, and Germany had the most new deaths.

Highlights from Weekly Epidemiological Summary as of January 31, 2021:

- For the last three weeks there has been a decline in global cases, with the number of global cases now over 100 million. Last week, all regions except for South-East reported a decline in cases.
- Although deaths declined globally by 1%, the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, and Western Pacific all reported increases in deaths.
- January 30, 2021 marked one year since WHO declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, at which time there were 9,826 cases in 20 countries and 213 deaths in only China.

[WHO COVID-19 Disease Dashboard](#); [Weekly Epidemiological and Operational Updates](#)

### **Provincial Updates**

#### The Ontario Government:

- Ontario enhances safety measures in place as in-person learning resumes across Ontario ([news release](#))
- Continues accelerated vaccinations of most vulnerable despite vaccine delays: immunization begins in northern fly-in communities this week ([news release](#))
- Announced the extension of the Community Support Program until 2022 ([news release](#))
- Makes additional investments to keep students and staff safe ([news release](#)) ([backgrounder](#) on expanded testing in schools and child care settings)
- Improves mental health supports for first responders and public safety personnel ([news release](#))
- Is taking immediate action to stop the spread of COVID-19 variants ([news release](#))
- Visited 1,000 stores during COVID-19 inspection blitz ([news release](#))
- 280,000 Ontario students to return to class ([news release](#))
- COVID-19 Science Advisory Table released a science brief on [lessons learned from Israel's vaccine rollout](#)

#### Public Health Ontario published:

- COVID-19 UK Variant VOC-202012/01 – What We Know So Far ([synthesis](#))
- COVID-19 Epidemiological Parameters – What We Know So Far ([synopsis](#))
- Inclusion of COVID-19 Variants of Concern in ([Weekly Epi Summary Report](#))
- Progress on Collecting Socio-demographic Data ([presentation](#))
- Adverse Events Following Immunizations (AEFIs) ([weekly summary](#))
- Adverse Events of Special Interest (AESIs) ([technical brief](#))
- Occupational Exposure to COVID-19 Risk Tool ([tool](#))
- FAQ on Use of Portable Air Cleaners and COVID-19 Transmission ([FAQ](#))

#### Other Provincial News:

- Sudbury mayor wants highway checkpoints to curb spread of COVID-19 ([article](#))
- 'Kids are not all right,' mental health among Ontario children deteriorating ([article](#))
- Ontario says it won't meet Feb. 5 goal of vaccinating all long-term care, high-risk retirement residents ([article](#))
- Ontario confirms 1st case of COVID-19 variant first detected in South Africa ([article](#))
- Ontario government ministers to appear before LTC commission ([article](#))
- Provincial Medical Officers of Health urge Premier to reopen schools first ([article](#))
- Establishing public trust central to decisions about inoculation of children ([article](#))
- Businesses will stay locked down until patients in ICU drop by more than half ([article](#))
- COVID-19: Discarded PPE a new and growing issue, says university study ([article](#))
- Mandatory COVID-19 tests for international arrivals at Pearson airport ([article](#))
- COVID-19 cases down in Ontario but variant 'a significant threat' to curbing spread, new modelling shows ([article](#))
- School boards prepare for returning students as debate rages over safety ([article](#))
- Error causes over-reporting in province's vaccination update ([article](#))
- Ontario extends off-peak electricity rates to Feb. 9 ([article](#))

### **National Updates**

#### The Government of Canada:

- Statements/Remarks from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada: [February 3](#), [February 2](#), [February 1](#), [January 31](#), [January 30](#), [January 28](#), [January 27, 2021](#)
- Announces new support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments ([news release](#))

- Invests in COVID-19 vaccines and biomanufacturing capacity ([backgrounder](#))
- Supports projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada ([news release](#))
- Introduces further restrictions on international travel and new testing and quarantine measures for international travelers ([news release](#), backgrounders [1](#), [2](#))
- Temporarily waives one-week waiting period for Employment Insurance claims ([news release](#))
- Released COVID-19 Update for Indigenous Peoples and communities ([news release](#))

#### Other National News:

- Made-in-Canada COVID vaccines are coming - but not until late 2021 ([article](#))
- Canada to get more than 1 million more doses by March through global vaccine alliance ([article](#))
- Canada signs tentative deal with Novavax to make its COVID-19 vaccine at new Montreal facility ([article](#))
- Snowbirds call for changes to 'punitive' travel restrictions ([article](#))
- Canadians growing more anxious over federal vaccination plan: poll ([article](#))
- Coronavirus: What's happening in Canada and around the world on Friday ([article](#))
- Pfizer's expectations don't match Canada's reality, experts say ([article](#))
- Physicians say COVID-19 vaccine both safe, protective for elderly Canadians. Here's what seniors need to know ([article](#))
- Airlines suspending certain flights, Ottawa introducing quarantine hotel stays to discourage travel ([article](#))
- Moderna to cut deliveries to Canada in new blow to vaccination campaign ([article](#))
- Treatments for COVID-19: What works, doesn't work, and is still being tested ([article](#))
- Johnson & Johnson single-shot COVID-19 vaccine appears 66% effective ([article](#))
- As other countries explore recommending wearing two masks, Canada sticks to its COVID-19 advice ([article](#)).

#### ***Global Updates***

##### The World Health Organization (WHO):

- Director General with Micheal Bloomberg, call for urgent action to tackle noncommunicable diseases (e.g. diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, cancer and respiratory diseases) which account for over 74% of deaths globally and worsen outcomes of patients with COVID-19 ([news release](#))
- Region of the America's (PAHO) launched [MedPPE](#), a mobile app that provides detailed information on the personal protective equipment that health personnel should use to guard against COVID-19 (available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese).
- Won 'Best international digital transformation of a training programme' for its [OpenWHO.org](#), an interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. OpenWHO.org continues to provide new and updated online learning courses.
- Released new videos which explain how to prevent COVID-19 infection in oral healthcare services ([videos](#))
- Director General continues to emphasize "Vaccine nationalism is self-defeating and inefficient, leaving the world's poorest and most vulnerable people at risk." ([NORAD Conference 2021, panel: Vaccine nationalism and global distribution](#) and [Closing remarks at 148th session of the Executive Board](#))

#### WHO published:

- First interim COVAX distribution forecast ([statement](#))
- Special Focus: COVID-19 and Health Workers in recognition of 2021 being designated as the [International Year of Health and Care Workers](#) ([Weekly Epidemiological Update: special focus p.4-7](#))
- Special Focus: Update on SARS-COV-2 variants of concern ([Weekly Epidemiological Update: special focus p.8-10](#))
- Essential Diagnostics List and urges countries to prioritize investments in testing ([link](#))
- COVID-19 Clinical management: living guidance ([overview](#))
- Science in 5, episode 23: *I am vaccinated, what next?* ([video](#)) ([YouTube](#))

#### Other International news:

- Research on COVID-19 cases and transmission in 17 K-12 schools showed that enforced mask wearing and cohorting limited spread within the school ([article](#))
- Lingering lung, physical, mental symptoms 4 months after COVID-19 ([article](#))
- Variant COVID among triggers for grim surge in Manaus, Brazil ([article](#))
- An international review of Multisystem Inflammatory System in Children (MIS-C) found children with MIS-C presented with a wide clinical spectrum, including Kawasaki disease-like, life-threatening shock and milder forms with mainly fever and inflammation and that a shorter duration of symptoms before admission was associated with a worse outcome ([article](#))

## 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](#).
  - New HealthFaxes
    - **February 3, 2021** [COVID-19: Update #28 UK Variant: Revised Mitigation Strategies for Community-Spread](#)
    - **February 1, 2021** [COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #5 Efficacy of the First Dose of Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine](#)
- 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](#)