



Internal Update

Tuesday, January 19, 2021



Provincewide Shutdown

The provincewide shutdown went into effect on Saturday, December 26, 2020.

Ontario declared a second provincial emergency on January 12, and stay-at-home orders came into effect on January 14.

Click [here](#) for more details.



COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard

This dashboard presents status levels of four domains (below) using a three colour-coded system (Red, Yellow & Green) that reflect the SMDHU's assessment of current state of the pandemic in Simcoe Muskoka, and our local public health system.

Current Overall Status: Red - Indicators Need Attention



Virus Spread & Containment

Status: **Red**



Laboratory Testing

Status: **Red**



Health System Capacity

Status: **Yellow**



Public Health System Capacity

Status: **Red**

For more details on the COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard for our region, please click [here](#).

Supervisors/Managers, please print and post this update in your area and discuss with your employees to ensure they're aware of these topics.

1) COVID-19 Safety Plans

As per the Ministry of labour, each facility has completed a Departmental COVID-19 Safety Plan which aligns with our Recovery Framework (attached to the Top 3 email).

- Departmental COVID-19 safety plan should be attached to the Recovery Framework;
- All employees are required to review the departmental COVID-19 Safety Plan;
- As per the MOL, each facility is required to post a copy of the safety plan for:
 - Employees and
 - Customers.
- If you haven't had a chance to review your Departmental COVID-19 Safety Plan, please do so.

2) Ontario Declares Second Provincial Emergency to Address COVID-19 Crisis and Save Lives

Effective Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., the government issued a stay-at-home order requiring everyone to remain at home with exceptions for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, for exercise or for essential work. This order and other new and existing public health restrictions are aimed at limiting people's mobility and reducing the number of daily contacts with those outside an immediate household. In addition to limiting outings to essential trips, all businesses must ensure that any employee who can work from home, does work from home.

The government has enacted the following additional public health measures:

- Outdoor organized public gatherings and social gatherings are further restricted to a limit of five people with limited exceptions. This is consistent with the rules during the lockdown during the first wave of COVID-19 in spring 2020 and will allow individuals and families to enjoy time outdoors safely.
- Individuals are required to wear a mask or face covering in the indoor areas of businesses or organizations that are open. Wearing a mask or face covering is now recommended outdoors when you can't physically distance more than two metres.



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- All non-essential retail stores, including hardware stores, alcohol retailers, and those offering curbside pickup or delivery, must open no earlier than 7 a.m. and close no later than 8 p.m. The restricted hours of operation do not apply to stores that primarily sell food, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores, and restaurants for takeout or delivery.
- Non-essential construction is further restricted, including below-grade construction, exempting survey.

These measures came into effect between Tuesday January 12, 2021 and Thursday, January 14, 2021, including the provincial declaration of emergency

For more details please read the media release from the Province [here](#).

3) COVID-19 Vaccine in Ontario

Ontario has started to roll out its three-phased vaccine distribution implementation plan.

Phase 1

Limited doses of the vaccine available for health care workers in hospitals, long-term care homes and retirement homes, other congregate care settings and remote Indigenous communities. Starting: December 15, 2020. [More details](#).

Phase 2

Increasing stock of vaccines, available to all health care workers, residents in long-term care homes, retirement homes, home care patients with chronic conditions and additional Indigenous communities. Starting: This winter. [More details](#).

Phase 3

Vaccines available widely across Ontario for anyone who wants to be immunized. Starting: When vaccines and doses are available. [More details](#).

Vaccine Rollout

COVID-19 Vaccines	Ontario	SMDHU
Total # of Doses Administered	224,134	12,885

SMDHU

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.

I have been exposed to someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19, what should I do?

From the SMDHU: If you have been identified as a close contact, and have been informed by public health or by someone in your life who has tested positive it is very important that you read this [fact sheet](#) (December 22, 2020) and take the following steps to stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home and self-isolate for 14 days after your last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Only leave the house to get tested. For testing centre locations visit our assessment centres and testing page.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms of COVID-19.
- If you do get tested you must still self-isolate while you wait for your results. Even if your test result is negative you must continue to self-isolate for the full 14 days.