



# Internal Update

Tuesday, March 9, 2021



COVID-19 Response Framework  
Current Level for our Region



**Red - Control**  
(Stringent Measures)

Broader-scale actions and restrictions across multiple sectors to control the spread. Restrictions are the most severe available before widescale business or organizational closings.

Click [here](#) for more details on this level.



## 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: **Yellow**



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) Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit region moves back to Red-Control level of Provincial Framework

As of Monday, March 8, the SMH DU region is back in the Red-Control level of the [Provincial Response Framework](#). From the SMDHU:

- It is important to remember that with large numbers of the B.1.1.7 variant cases in Simcoe Muskoka, and with the rise in Variants of Concern throughout the province, we may see an increase in the incidence of COVID-19 in the weeks to come, and the potential need for further protective measures in the future.
- It is of critical importance that we be diligent in maintaining our public health measures.

#### Important message from the SMDHU:

The fewer people you have contact with the lower the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Even though there is no longer a stay-at-home order, staying home is still the best way to protect yourself and others. You are strongly advised to:

- Stay home as much as possible
- Avoid social gatherings
- Limit close contacts to your household
- Screen for symptoms if attending school and/ or childcare and work
- Work from home if possible, and allow your employees to work from home if they can
- Avoid travel except for essential reasons

For more information please visit the SMDHU's [COVID-19 web page](#).

### 2) Ontario Ready to Rollout Phase Two of COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan

The Ontario government is preparing to move into Phase Two of its COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan next month, with a focus on vaccinating populations based on age and risk.

With vaccine supply stabilizing and over two million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine expected from the federal government before the end of March, the province will enter Phase Two of its vaccine rollout. Between April 2021 and July 2021, up to nine million Ontarians will be vaccinated.



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During Phase Two, groups that will receive the vaccine include:

- Older adults between 60-79 years of age;
- Individuals with specific health conditions and some primary caregivers;
- People who live and work in congregate settings and some primary caregivers;
- People who live in hot spots with high rates of death, hospitalizations and transmission; and,
- Certain workers who cannot work from home.

Read the full media release from the Ontario government [here](#).

### 3) Town of Midland Active Screening Update and PPE Reminder

As per Ministry of Health (MOH) a new screening question has been added to our active screening: *'Is anyone you live with currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms. If you answer yes, you are advised to stay home until your household member gets a negative test and is cleared by public health or is diagnosed with another illness.'*

The manual pre-screening questionnaire has been updated and the GO EVO APP is in the process of being updated.

Upon a failed screening test, COVID Compliance Officer- Jim Reichheld will follow up with the manager to determine next steps based on information you have provided to your manager. There may be a follow-up directly with the employee.

Let's all do our part to protect the safety of your co-workers and notify your manager in the event you have any COVID-19 questions/concerns.

#### Reminders – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & COVID-19:

As per the Ministry of Labour (MOL) and Ministry of Health( MOH), all employees must wear PPE when you are within 2-m distance of an employee. This includes vehicle sharing.

PPE includes:

- Medical mask (or higher) and glasses, or
- Medical mask and face shield or
- Cloth mask and face shield

**Mask Use:** As per MOH and our Corporate SOP's, you must wear a mask at all times. You may wear an unsoiled cloth mask when you are not within a 2-m distance of another employee. This includes being in a lunchroom when you are 2-m distance from another employee and you are not eating, walking down a hallway. EXCEPTION: You may remove your mask when you are working alone ie. at your desk, on a worksite alone.

## 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](#) (updated February 5, 2021) 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. It is recommended you seek testing within 7 days from your last exposure to the person who tested positive for COVID and then again on or after 10 days from your last exposure to them. For testing centre locations visit the [SMDHU website](#).
- Monitor yourself for **symptoms** of COVID-19. If symptoms develop, please get tested again, even if you were recently tested.
- 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.