



Update – April 24, 2020

1) No Departmental changes.

- Reminder the Top 5 will be a weekly update on Fridays.
- Urgent news will be communicated as it arises.

2) SMDHU launches new COVID-19 Case Explorer

- The new COVID-19 Case Explorer features a map of the Simcoe-Muskoka region, showing confirmed COVID-19 cases for each municipality.
- Hover your cursor over each municipality to see the total number of cases, click on municipalities to see further details.

To check it out, visit: [COVID-19 Case Explorer](#)

3) Federal Government has announced support for students and new graduates

Support of nearly \$9 billion for post-secondary students and recent graduates will help provide the financial support needed this summer, help them continue their studies in the fall, and help many get the experience they need to start their careers. These measures include launching:

- The proposed Canada Emergency Student Benefit, which would provide support to students and new graduates who are not eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. This benefit would provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students or \$1,750 per month for eligible students with dependents or disabilities. The benefit would be available from May to August 2020.
- The new Canada Student Service Grant, which will help students gain valuable work experience and skills while they help their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. For students who choose to do national service and serve their communities, the new Canada Student Service Grant will provide up to \$5,000 for their education in the fall.

To read the full media release, visit: [Support for Students & New Grads](#)

4) Ontario extends emergency orders to help stop spread of COVID-19 until May 6, 2020

This Emergency Order extension includes the closure of outdoor amenities in parks and recreational areas, non-essential workplaces, public places and bars and restaurants, along with restrictions on social gatherings and limiting staff from working in more than one retirement home or long-term care home.

For full details on all orders extended, visit: [Emergency Orders Extended](#)

5) Federal Government announces more than \$1 billion in support of medical research

The Government of Canada announced more than \$1 billion in support of a national medical research strategy to fight COVID-19 that includes vaccine development, the production of treatments, and tracking of the virus. This new funding builds on the \$275 million investment for coronavirus research and medical countermeasures announced in March.

To read the full media release, visit: [Medical Research Support](#)

If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has it, first self-isolate and then use [Ontario's Self-Assessment Tool](#) to see if you need to seek further care.

Remember to pre-screen daily when entering any Town building.

Any changes within a department will now be provided to Randy to be included in an update and copied to HR@midland.ca for tracking.