



Good morning Chimnissing,

Once again Santa has been declared an essential service provider! We have some beautiful light displays set up by community members to help him find his way. Thank you for spreading holiday joy.

All Holiday schedules are posted online for essential services. Throughout the Christmas Break (Dec.21-30); Dalton and Associates will also be providing counselling services at BFNHC from 10am-4pm. Please call 1-888-570-8887 or email them at BFNreferrals@daltonassociates.ca. Walk-ins are also welcome. The holidays can be a very stressful time for many, the ongoing pandemic can worsen these feelings; please reach out -talking helps!

Ontario has issued new guidelines; capacity limits for indoor venues with a normal capacity over 1000 have reverted back to 50% as of midnight Wednesday, December 18th. Simcoe Muskoka has plans to issue guidelines of 50% capacity in most businesses and public buildings. They have also stated indoor gatherings would be reduced from 25 to ten -this is planned for midnight December 20th. Children attending off territory education have been advised to bring home all belongings in the event of a return to on-line learning after the holiday.

Yesterday's case counts were over 2000, and the highest they have been since May, 2021. SMDHU has reported 26 cases of the Omnicron Variant. Dr .Charles Gardener has stated that being fully vaccinated may not protect from this variant which has a higher reproduction rate than the Delta. Other agencies are reporting a difference in symptoms i.e stuffy nose, sore throat and body aches -these are very similar to the common cold in presentation. Much is not yet known about the severity of this variant, other than its high transmission rate. If you are experiencing symptoms or general illness, please stay home and limit your contact to others. Consider scheduling a Covid-19 test or utilize the online screening tool at https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/&ved=2ahUKEwj1xeHntur0AhUAKYkEHT3CA2EQFnoECAQQAQ&usg=AOvVaw3N0x3n mkvTV7NI8_BhHsoDrRapid tests can be accessed upon request.

Our community has fared well during the pandemic in terms of case counts and stopping the spread. It is important to remember that our best tools remain the same; face coverings, hand

hygiene and physical distancing especially in indoor spaces, on our ferries and when leaving the community. Stay home when feeling unwell, limit your contact to others if ill. All visitors must provide proof of vaccination upon arrival and register their visit for contact tracing purposes (Holiday Ferry Schedule is posted chimnissing.ca). A list of COVID-19 testing centres for the surrounding region has been provided at the end of this update. Any person identifying as Indigenous or traveling/working in a First Nation community may take part in PCR testing without referral. Any questions or concerns can be emailed to ecgquestions@chimnissing.ca

We are currently at Level Three of our COVID-19 Response plan; visitors are limited to your immediate family members and partners (as per BFN policy) and essential service providers. This includes delivery services. Please continue to register your visitors using the visitors form, all visitors are required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination upon arrival and a copy of their approved visitors form. Please note the approval is a conditional approval only, if you arrive with a form but do not meet the guidelines set out, you will be unable to access the ferry.

Enjoy this time with your loved ones and stay well.

Merry Christmas,

Emergency Operations Team

You can get a PCR diagnostic test at a number of locations in Simcoe Muskoka including participating pharmacies, participating labs, and local testing/assessment centres (listed by area below) if you:

- **are showing COVID-19 symptoms, have been identified as a close contact, and have been informed by public health or by someone in your life who has tested positive or by an exposure notification through the COVID Alert app; a resident or work in a setting that has a COVID-19 case or outbreak, ; and eligible for testing as part of a targeted testing initiative directed by the Ministry of Health. This includes: Individuals who identify as Indigenous, individuals who are travelling into First Nations and Indigenous communities for work purposes.**

LOCATIONS OF COVID-19 PCR TESTING AND ASSESSMENT CENTRES

You do not need a referral to get a PCR diagnostic test and you do not need a health card, but if you have one please bring it with you.

Midland

COVID-19 testing only. By appointment only. To book an appointment call the testing centre booking desk at 705-526-7804 ext 253, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: NEW: 619 Prospect Blvd. Midland. This is a drive-thru testing; centre located at the rear parking area, follow the signs. DO NOT enter the North Simcoe FHT clinic building for testing, booking or results.

Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed weekends.

Barrie

COVID-19 Assessment Centre Huronia Road

Physician assessment and testing offered, same day appointments. Online booking now available at barriehealth.info

Location: 490 Huronia Road, Barrie. In the building at the rear of the complex (not at the Huronia Urgent Care Clinic)

Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed on weekends.

Barrie & Community Family Medicine Clinics

Details: Physician assessment and testing offered. Booked appointments and walk-ins as space allows. Call ahead for an appointment (705) 722-1199 or visit barriewalkinclinics.ca

Location: Prince William location only, 829 Big Bay Point Road - Shoppers Drug Mart plaza

Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. AND 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and stat holidays 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

RVH Testing Centre - for indoor and drive-thru COVID-19 tests

Details:

Physician assessment and testing offered. All appointments require your name, health card number and date of birth. The time you are booking is your expected time of arrival. Book online [here](http://barriehealth.info). If you are unable to book an appointment online call 705-797-3120. T

Location: 29 Sperling Drive (former Barrie Police headquarters)

Hours: COVID testing is available 7 days a week from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

LifeLabs Barrie

Details:

COVID-19 testing offered Symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals can book an appointment for testing online at <https://lifelabs.com/book-an-appointment> or by calling 1-877-313-4982 (Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Location: 370 Bayview Drive, Barrie

Hours: Monday to Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: 490 Huronia Road, Barrie. In the building at the rear of the complex (not at the Huronia Urgent Care Clinic)

Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed on weekends.

Orillia

Details:

COVID-19 testing only..Appointments can be booked by calling 1-888-589-4109. If you are coming to the testing centre please bring your health card and driver's license. Having both items will help make your time at the centre much quicker. Please follow all precautions including wearing a mask, physical distancing and frequent hand hygiene. The time of your appointment is the time that you should arrive at the Assessment Centre. Your test should be completed within approximately 30 minutes of your scheduled arrival time

Location: Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital Kiwanis Building 170 Colborne St., W Orillia

Hours: Monday to Friday 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.