

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:  
COVID-19 update – September 18, 2020

The recent spike in COVID-19 cases across the province is very concerning. There have been 55 new cases reported in the Simcoe Muskoka area this week, 8 of those in BWG. This is the second-highest number of new cases reported in a single week in the region during the entire pandemic.

While the province's mandatory rollback on public gatherings has not yet been extended to our area, I strongly encourage you to heed the advice of our local Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Gardner has asked us to shrink our social circles as much as possible in order to reduce exposure to the virus, limiting contact to those within our own households if we can. This does not include limiting access to schools or workplaces, where precautions like physical distancing, face coverings and increased cleaning measures are in place. Such precautions are rarely used in social settings, and it's these social gatherings that are the main area of concern.

On a positive note, I am hearing a lot of good feedback from families about the tremendous efforts of teachers and school staff to make this school year as safe, welcoming and enjoyable as possible. Whether kids are in class or learning virtually, the routine of lesson time and seeing friends again is important so it's encouraging to hear that things are off to a good start.

I also want to remind you to get your Smile cookie at any Tim Horton's location in Bradford before the end of the weekend to help support our local CHATS program. CHATS has been invaluable throughout the pandemic in supporting our seniors, and I am looking forward to helping out with their drive-through wellness event in celebration of National Seniors Day on October 1. If you are a senior and interested in the event, you can contact CHATS to find out more and register to participate ([lind@chats.on.ca](mailto:lind@chats.on.ca)).

Best,  
Rob Keffer