

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #1

Date issued: March 17, 2020

Purpose of bulletin: The purpose of this bulletin is to keep local stakeholders informed of the quickly evolving local and international novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and its implications for Wellington County, Dufferin County and the City of Guelph.

**Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the situation, further updates may be forthcoming.
For more information please visit wdgpublichealth.ca/coronavirus.**

COVID-19 Assessment Clinic Opens

- The COVID-19 Assessment Clinic, run by the Guelph Family Health Team, opened March 17, 2020. The clinic is located at 65 Delhi Street in Guelph and will be open from 8 a.m. to 8p.m. daily, 7 days a week.
- For more information visit www.wdgpublichealth.ca/coronavirus.

Closures

- On March 17, 2020, the Government of Ontario enacted a Declaration of Emergency to Protect the Public – see [News Release](#).
- As a result of this declaration and its associated orders, the following establishments are **legally required to close immediately**:
 - All facilities providing indoor recreational programs;
 - All public libraries;
 - All private schools as defined in the Education Act;
 - All licensed child care centres (for all other child care centres, the CMOH has recommended closures);
 - All bars and restaurants, except to the extent that such facilities provide takeout food and delivery;
 - All theatres including those offering live performances of music, dance, and other art forms, as well as cinemas that show movies; and
 - Concert venues.
- These orders were approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and will remain in place until March 31, 2020, at which point they will be reassessed and considered for extension, unless this order is terminated earlier.

Public Gatherings

- Ontario has ordered the immediate suspension of all organized public events and gatherings **over 50 people**, including parades and events and communal services within places of worship.
- For smaller gatherings of less than 50 people that do not apply to the settings above, consider cancelling or delaying the event.
- Practice extra precautions for [Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings](#).

Encourage potential attendees of events to:

- Reconsider their participation because of potential transmission of the virus;
- Consider if they are an in a high-risk group (e.g. over 65 or with health concerns);
- Consider the current situation in their community. Check the [website](#) for updates;
- Practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, including social distancing as much as possible. Social distancing means maintaining distance from others (two arms' length or 2 meters); and
- Attend events virtually if possible.

Additional Guidance and Resources

- It is always good practice for every home to be prepared for a possible situation where you may be ill and need to stay home for an extended period of time:
 - Fill prescriptions to have sufficient supply;
 - Stock up on essentials but avoid “panic buying”; and
 - Share your plan with friends and family and check in on vulnerable and elderly neighbours.
- **The Public Health Agency of Canada** has [great tips](#) for people to help them be prepared, including items to have on hand if you or a member of your family become ill with COVID-19. They have also developed [guidance documents](#) for communities, schools and childcare settings, health professionals and businesses.
- Individuals should continue to think about action they can take to stay healthy and prevent the spread of any illness, especially respiratory infection:
 - Encourage people to stay home if they are sick;
 - Practice frequent [hand hygiene](#) and [coughing/sneezing etiquette](#); and
 - [Clean](#) and disinfect frequently touched object and surfaces using a regular household disinfectant (use only disinfectants that have a Drug Identification Number (DIN). A DIN is an 8-digit number given by Health Canada that confirms it is approved for use in Canada and will be written on the package. For more information, please visit the [Public Health Ontario website](#).
- Employers should help reinforce the infection prevention messages above with employees (e.g. encouraging people to stay at home if sick).



Liaison Support and Contact Information

If you have questions or need additional information:

Liaison for Schools, Post-secondary, Health Care Providers, Child Care Centres

Contact: amanda.scales@wdgpublichealth.ca

Liaison for Municipalities (CEMCs, Police, Fire, EMS)

Contact: stacey.roberts@wdgpublichealth.ca

Liaison for Long-term Care and Retirement Homes

Contact: kyley.alderson@wdgpublichealth.ca