

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #5

Date issued: March 31, 2020

Purpose of bulletin: To keep local stakeholders informed of the quickly-evolving novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and its implications for Wellington County, Dufferin County and the City of Guelph (WDG).

Due to the evolving nature of the situation, further updates may be forthcoming.
For more information visit www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca

New: WDG Local Surveillance

- [WDGPH's COVID-19 Status Report](#) is now available online.
- **Note:** These numbers will be updated as they become available. The number of confirmed cases is only part of the picture. You should assume you can get COVID-19 in the community. For more information, visit www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca.

Public Health Guidance Documents

- March 30: WDGPH [Updated PPE Information for Health System Partners](#)
- March 29: Ministry of Health [COVID-19 Guidance for Industry Operators](#)
- March 29: Ministry of Health [COVID-19 Guidance for Emergency Childcare Centres](#)
- March 27: WDGPH [Updated Testing and Case Management](#) and [Testing Flowchart](#)

Ontario Extends Emergency Declaration

- Ontario is extending the March 17 declaration of emergency and subsequent orders, regulations and amendments issued under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* **until April 13, 2020**. Below are a few of the declaration and orders that have been extended ([full list available here](#)):
 - [Declaration of a provincial emergency](#)
 - [Closure of public places and establishments](#) (including recreational centres, libraries, private schools, childcare centres, bars and restaurants, theatres, concert venues) with exemption for emergency childcare for health care and frontline essential service workers
 - [Prohibiting events and gatherings of more than five people](#)
 - [Enforcement of emergency orders](#)
 - Work deployment for [health service providers](#) and [long-term care homes](#)
 - [Closure of non-essential workplaces](#)
 - [Streamlining requirements for long-term care homes](#)

Ontario Closes All Outdoor Recreational Amenities Across Province

- On March 30, the [Government of Ontario issued](#) a new emergency order to close all outdoor recreational amenities, effective immediately.
- Closures include all communal or shared, public or private, outdoor recreational amenities, such as: playgrounds, sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, off-leash dog parks, beaches, skateboard and BMX parks, picnic areas, outdoor community gardens, park shelters, outdoor exercise equipment, condo parks and gardens, etc.

Ontario Prohibits Gatherings of More Than Five People

- On March 28, the [Government of Ontario issued](#) a new emergency order that prohibits organized public events and social gatherings of more than **five people**, effective immediately.
- Exceptions include: Private households with five people or more; Operating childcare centres supporting frontline health care workers and first responders provided the number of persons at each centre does not exceed 50 people; Funerals are permitted to proceed with up to 10 people at one time.

Statement from Chief Medical Officer of Health

- On March 30, Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, [strongly recommended the following](#):
 - **Stay home except for essential reasons**, such as to: access health care services, shop for groceries, pick up medication at the pharmacy, walk pets when required and support vulnerable community members with meeting these needs.
 - To the fullest extent possible, limit the number of essential trips.
 - When out in public adhere to physical distancing by keeping two metres from other people outside of your household.
 - **Individuals over 70 years of age to self-isolate**. This means only leaving home or seeing other people for essential reasons. Where possible, seek services over the phone or internet or ask for help from friends, family or neighbours with essential errands. **This also applies to individuals who have compromised immune systems and/or underlying medical conditions.**

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On March 31, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) loan payment deferrals and financial support for institutions to enable students to complete the academic year.
- On March 30, the [Government of Ontario issued](#) a new directive on health and safety standards for frontline nurses in hospitals to prevent exposure to and transmission of COVID-19.
- On March 30, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) they'll be investing \$10 million to help community organizations with the coordination of subsidized deliveries of meals, medicines and other necessities to seniors.

- On March 30, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) enhanced reporting about COVID-19. A new [dedicated web page](#) will include a more detailed summary of cases in the province that will be updated each day at 10:30 a.m.
- On March 28, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) the implementation of an emergency order to ensure that staffing and resources are available to help care for and protect long-term care residents during the COVID-19 crisis.
- On March 28, the [Government of Ontario issued](#) an emergency order that retail businesses and individuals in Ontario cannot charge unfair prices for necessary goods, effective immediately.

Additional Resources

- Food safety at home: [Tips to safely prepare food](#)
- How to care for a child with COVID-19 at home: [Advice for caregivers](#)
- Reduce the spread of COVID-19: Wash your hands [video](#)
- Physical distancing works [video](#)
- Clean high-touch surfaces (toys, toilets, phones, electronics, door handles, light switches, countertops, etc.) using approved [hard-surface disinfectants](#)

Contact Information for Additional Support

WDGPH COVID-19 Call Centre 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006

- Available: Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- For inquiries about public gatherings, workplace concerns and protecting yourself from COVID-19: **Dial ext. 4020** open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Reliable information sources:

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health webpage: www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca

Ontario Ministry of Health webpage: www.ontario.ca/coronavirus

Public Health Agency of Canada webpage: www.canada.ca/coronavirus