

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #61

Date issued: October 13, 2020

Purpose of bulletin: To keep local stakeholders informed about COVID-19 and its implications for Wellington County, Dufferin County and the City of Guelph (WDG). For more information visit www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca.

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

Surveillance

- Information about cases in WDG can be found on [our website](#)
- Information about institutional outbreaks can be found in the [Retirement and Long-Term Care Outbreak Bulletin](#)
- Information about local assessment centres and testing criteria is available on [our website](#)

New and Amended Guidance Documents

- **Updated:** [Retirement Home COVID-19 Visiting Policy](#) (Effective October 13)
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Guidance for Facilities for Sports and Recreational Fitness Activities During COVID-19](#) (October 10)
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#) (October 9)
- **Updated:** Chief Medical Officer of Health's [COVID-19 Directive #5 for Hospitals and Long-Term Care Homes](#) (October 8)
- **New:** [COVID-19 Directive #5: Questions and Answers](#) (October 8)
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Construction Sector Guidance](#) (October 8)
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Restaurant and Food Services Sector Guidance](#) (October 8)
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Agriculture Sector Guidance](#) (October 8)
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Food Processing Sector Guidance](#) (October 8)
- **New:** PHAC's [Safety Advice for Private Indoor Gatherings](#) (October 8)
- **New:** PHAC's [Interim Guidance on the use of Rapid Antigen Detection Tests for the Identification of SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#)

Increased Precautions for Congregate Care Settings

The [Government of Ontario](#) is setting out increased precautions for congregate care settings in areas where there is a high rate of community spread of COVID-19. Those settings include

homes serving adults with developmental disabilities, shelters for survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking, children's residential settings, youth justice facilities and Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy residential programs. When a residential care setting is in a community that is beginning to see increased cases of COVID-19, the ministry will contact them to apply further precautions.

Influenza Resources for Congregate Living Settings

Public Health Ontario (PHO) has influenza-related resources for congregate living settings to assist with preparing for and responding to the upcoming respiratory virus season. These resources are posted on the PHO [Influenza](#) and [COVID-19 Resources for Congregate Living Settings](#) landing pages.

- [Planning for Respiratory Virus Outbreaks in Congregate Living Settings](#)
- [FAQs: Antiviral Medication Use During Influenza Outbreak in Congregate Living Settings](#)
- [At A Glance: Key Features of Influenza, SARS-COV-2 and Other Common Respiratory Viruses](#)

Slides from the October 8th webinar to support congregate living settings in preparing for the upcoming respiratory virus season will be posted on the PHO [website](#) shortly.

Guidance Documents and Resources for Schools

The [school section](#) on the WDGPH website will continue to be updated with resources as they become available and are developed. Please be sure to bookmark the page, rather than save documents, to ensure you have the most up-to-date versions. Minor revisions are made as needed. Check out our new school-related [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

The following school and child care resources have been updated:

School and Child Care Screening Tools

- [Online School and Childcare Screening Tool](#) (Online)
- [Student and Child Screening Tool](#) (Download to Print)
- [School Staff and Essential Visitor Screening Tool](#) (Download to Print)

Process Maps, Symptoms, Cases and Return to School

- [School Protocol Process Map for Students/Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms](#)
 - Provides an overview of the processes that take place if a student/employee from a school has COVID-19 symptoms
- [School Protocol Process Map When Student/Staff Tests Positive for COVID-19](#)
 - Provides an overview of the processes that take place if a student/employee from a school tests positive for COVID-19
- [School Case Information \(letter to parents\)](#)
 - A template of the school letter that is sent to all staff/students if someone within the school tests positive for COVID-19; it outlines the roles and actions by Public Health, the school and families

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On October 12, the [Government of Canada](#) announced the application process for the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) is now available.
- On October 9, the [Government of Ontario](#) introduced additional targeted public health measures in the Ottawa, Peel, and Toronto public health unit regions. These modified Stage 2 restrictions will be for a minimum of 28 days and reviewed on an ongoing basis.
- On October 9, the [Government of Canada](#) announced new, targeted supports to help hard-hit businesses and other organizations experiencing a drop in revenue due to the pandemic.
- On October 9, the [Government of Canada](#) announced an investment of more than \$10.2M in COVID-19 mental health and substance use research.
- On October 9, [the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced an additional investment of \$100 million through the Emergency Food Security Fund to improve food access and increase food supply to help people experiencing food insecurity due to the pandemic.
- On October 8, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing \$9 million through the new Reconnect Festival and Event Program to support municipalities and event organizers during COVID-19.
- On October 8, [Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education](#) announced the hiring of Dr. Joshua Tepper as Education Health Advisor.

Additional Resources

- New: WDGPH's [Tested for COVID-19 Now What?](#) (October 6)

Ongoing COVID-19 Action

Face Coverings Required at Additional Establishments in WDG

Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health, has included additional establishments within the Section 22 Order on mandatory face coverings. The expanded Section 22 Order came into effect on September 18, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.

In addition to WDG commercial establishments, the following fall under this order:

- Banquet halls, convention centres and other event spaces
- Galleries
- Museums
- Private transportation (bus/taxi/limo/ride share)
- Churches, mosques, synagogues, temples or other faith settings

The full media release is posted on our [website](#). For more details on the order and frequently asked questions, [visit our website](#) or contact our call centre at 519-822-2715 ext. 4020.

Individuals who may be exempted from this Order:

- Children under the age of two years.

- Children under the age of five years (either chronologically or developmentally) who refuse to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver.
- People whose ability to breathe is in any way inhibited by the face covering.
- People that have any other medical reason they cannot wear a face covering safely, such as, but not limited to, respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties or difficulties in hearing or processing information.

Refer to [O. Reg 364/20](#) (Rules for areas in Stage 3) for details on the province-wide mandated use of face coverings in all public indoor settings.



COVID-19 Cases in Schools and Licensed Child Care Centres

The Government of Ontario has launched a [webpage to report COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres](#) for parents and the public. This page will be updated every weekday with the most up-to-date COVID-19 information available, including a summary of cases in schools and licensed child care centres and agencies.

Physical Distancing Floor Decals

- WDG Public Health has physical distancing floor decals available for community partners to use at their locations.
- If you would like decals, please contact Anna Vanderlaan via email at anna.vanderlaan@wdgpublichealth.ca



COVID Alert App

The [Government of Ontario](#) is encouraging Ontarians to download [COVID Alert](#) on their smartphones. The free, nation-wide app notifies users of potential exposure to COVID-19. Users who test positive for COVID-19 will receive a one-time key from their health authority that they can enter in the app. When the key is entered, COVID Alert will notify other users who may have come in close contact with that person for at least 15 minutes in the past 14 days so they can contact their local public health authority for guidance.

The app uses strong measures to protect data and does not track a user's location or collect personally identifiable information. The Privacy Commissioners of Canada and Ontario were consulted on the development of COVID Alert to ensure the highest level of privacy for users.

COVID-19 Testing

Please check your local [assessment centre](#) for details on booking an appointment. Public Health **DOES NOT** provide testing. No referral is needed. **Bring your health card to the assessment centre** (if you have one). It is OK if it is expired. Presenting your health card allows you to:

- Check your test results online. Public Health only calls those who test positive.
- Be treated or prescribed medication for other respiratory conditions if needed and if this option is available at your assessment centre.
- Move through the testing process faster.

Further instruction will be provided by the clinician at the assessment centre based on individual assessment.

Check Your COVID-19 Test Results Online

The Ontario government has launched an online [COVID-19 Test Result Viewer](#). This offers fast and secure access to test results on your computer or mobile device. NOTE: **Online test results are only available to those with an Ontario photo (green) health card and can take up to 4-10 days to be available online.**

If you receive a positive result via the online COVID-19 Test Result Viewer, you will have the option to report your information to Public Health through Contact +. Contact + is a voluntary, web-based service for positive results received via the COVID-19 Test Result Viewer. **It does not replace the call you get from Public Health.** Contact + allows you to confirm your contact details as well as review and answer the questions that Public Health will ask you, in advance of your call. You may add this information for up to 48 hours after your positive test result is reported. For more information about Contact + visit the [testing and results](#) page.

Health and Safety Sector-Specific Guidance

Sector-specific guidelines and posters to help protect workers and the public from COVID-19 are available from the Government of Ontario. These [guidance documents](#) are being posted and updated as they become available, so check back regularly.

Contact Information for Additional Support

WDGPH COVID-19 Call Centre

- **For health-related questions**, including symptoms, close contacts or travel:
 - Call 519-822-2715 ext. 7006
 - Available Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **For non-health related questions**, including business or workplace concerns, social distancing/face covering questions or non-emergency reporting questions:
 - Call 519-822-2715 ext. 4020
 - Available Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Please note our COVID-19 call centre is experiencing higher than normal call volumes. COVID-19 test results may take 4-10 days. Please keep checking the online portal.

Reliable Information Sources

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

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

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