

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #62

Date issued: October 15, 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:** Chief Medical Officer of Health's [Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007](#) (October 14)
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Guidance for Meeting and Event Facilities During COVID-19](#) (October 13)

Customized COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan for Workplaces

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) has launched a new customizable [COVID-19 Tool Kit](#) to help workplaces across Canada operate safely and prevent the spread of infection during the pandemic.

Anchored by the [COVID-19: Workplace Health and Safety Guide](#), the online hub provides one-stop access to more than 40 free resources to reduce the spread and protect everyone in the workplace. The guide includes information on the responsibilities of employers and workers, and what workplaces should do to control risks. Topics covered include how the coronavirus spreads, employers' duties, handling work refusals, hazard and risk assessment identification for COVID-19, and how to control the risk and apply the hierarchy of controls in the workplace.

Workplaces can download the guide on its own or bundle other industry and workplace-specific tip sheets, infographics, and posters to create a customized and comprehensive tool kit tailored to their industry or specific workplace needs.

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

New Event:

- [COVID-19 & Schools: WDG Public Health Virtual School Community Update](#)

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On October 15, the [Government of Canada](#) announced \$363,936 in financial support for fiscal year 2020-2021, to 5 Child Advocacy Centres (CAC) and Child and Youth Advocacy Centres in Ontario.
- On October 14, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it has hired 100 new contact tracers, many of whom are starting work this week, with up to 500 more recruits expected to be hired by mid-November.
- On October 14, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that effective October 16, and until further notice, short-term and temporary absences for social or personal reasons will not be allowed at long-term care homes in areas of the province where there is higher community spread of COVID-19.
- On October 13, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing over \$1.4 million in Mississauga-based Microbix Biosystems to expand production of COVID-19 testing supplies and further support the province in the ongoing fight against COVID-19.

- On October 13, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced \$300 million to help offset fixed costs, including property taxes, hydro and natural gas bills to provide relief for local restaurants and other businesses impacted by new public health measures.
- On October 13, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that a new agreement between Ontario and the federal government will see Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada invest an additional \$11.6 million to help support efforts by Ontario producers to stop the spread of COVID-19 on their farms.

Additional Resources

- [How to Care for a Child with COVID-19 at Home: Advice for Caregivers](#) (October 14)

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.

If you are asymptomatic a list of pharmacies, currently providing testing, is available at the [Ontario COVID-19 testing locations finder website](#).

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.wdgppublichealth.ca

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

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