

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #63

Date issued: October 20, 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:** PHAC's [Community-based Measures to Mitigate the Spread of Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) in Canada](#) (October 15)
- **Updated:** PHAC's [A Framework for Risk Assessment and Mitigation in Community Settings During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (October 15)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Screening Poster for Businesses](#) (October 19)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Screening Tool \(fillable\)](#) (October 19)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Testing & Clearance Guidance for Workplaces \(Non-Health Care Settings\)](#) (October 15)

COVID-19 Translated Materials

Many resources developed to educate the public on various terms and behaviors related to COVID-19 are available for download in over 20 languages. Visit [Public Health Ontario](#) for details and links.

Ontario Extends COVID-19 Orders

The [Government of Ontario](#) is extending most orders currently in force under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* (ROA). This extension will be in effect until November 21, 2020. [Orders in effect under the ROA](#) have been extended with the following exceptions:

- [Electricity Price for Regulated Price Plan \(RPP\) Consumers](#) has only been extended until October 31, 2020. Beginning November 1, 2020, time of use customers will have the option of choosing between time of use electricity rates or tiered pricing.
- [Access to Personal Health Information by Means of the Electronic Health Record](#) will expire on October 22, 2020 as changes to the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004, that recently came into force, make the order unnecessary.

Additionally, regulations have been amended to remove restrictions on in-person teaching and instruction for fire departments.

Ways to Enjoy Halloween Safely

WDG Public Health strongly advises people to spend Halloween with their own household and not host or attend Halloween parties because of the increased risk of COVID-19. When sending your children to school on Halloween incorporate a face covering into their costume this year.

If you are trick or treating, please keep to your household and keep your distance from others. Remember, not all homes may be giving out candy this year for their own safety. If you do hand out candy, consider prepackaging the treats in separate bags or using tongs to hand out the candy. Keep your distance from the children and wear a face covering.

Visit our [website](#) for more tips on Halloween safety and remember that any organized public events or gatherings must adhere to the measures and restrictions outlined in [O. Reg 364/20](#) including gathering limits.

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 the school-related [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

New Event:

- Join Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health and the WDGPH School Team as we host the following presentation [COVID-19 & Schools: WDG Public Health Virtual School Community Update](#).

Protecting Long-Term Care Homes from the Second Wave

Last week Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, wrote to owners and operators of long-term care and retirement homes in our region to provide directions to keep residents safe during the second wave of COVID-19. WDG Public Health is working closely with these facilities to reduce the risk of the virus to this vulnerable population.

It is important for the public to know how these requested changes will impact operations of long-term care homes:

- Residents will be restricted to one general visitor and one essential visitor per resident at a time
- There will be fewer trips outside the home for residents and those trips will be focused on medical appointments, compassionate situations and other essential purposes
- Tours of facilities will move from in-person to virtual
- Social activities will be limited to ones where resident safety can be maintained through physical distancing, adhering to infection control measures, enhanced environmental cleaning and face coverings for residents and staff

Read the media release regarding protecting long-term care homes from the second wave of COVID-19 on our [website](#).

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On October 19, [Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health](#), issued a statement detailing public health advice for Halloween this year.
- On October 19, the [Government of Ontario](#) released [Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-Focused Government](#) to make services simpler, easier to use, and more convenient and accessible during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
- On October 17, the [Government of Ontario](#) added York Region to the City of Ottawa, City of Toronto and Region of Peel, as areas with higher community spread of COVID-19.
- On October 16, the [Government of Canada](#) announced the launch of two challenges through the [Innovative Solutions Canada](#) (ISC) program to make personal protective equipment (PPE) more compostable and recyclable.
- On October 15, the [Government of Ontario](#) launched a new [webpage](#) for businesses that will provide them with tools to promote the COVID alert app to their employees, members, and customers through advertising and social media campaigns.
- On October 15, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is expanding innovative and proven reactivation care models across the province by adding over 200 more transitional care beds.

Additional Resources

- [How to care for a person with COVID-19 at home: Advice for caregivers](#) (October 15)

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.wdgpublichealth.ca

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

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