

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #65

Date issued: October 27, 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

- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Workplace Safety Guidance](#) (October 23)
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Restaurant and Food Services Guidance](#) (October 23)
- **Updated:** PHAC's [Risk Mitigation Tool for Outdoor Recreation Spaces and Activities Operating During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (October 23)

Optimizing Care Through COVID-19 Transmission Scenarios

Ontario Health has developed a principle-based set of recommendations for health care organizations and providers that draws from lessons learned in the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure continued care for patients/clients in future waves, including:

- Patients/clients with COVID-19
- Patients/clients with non-COVID-19 health care needs
- Patients/clients who may have been impacted by delayed or deferred care during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic

Visit [Ontario Health](#) to read the full document.

Share Your Story

WDGPH is exploring the effects and impacts that the pandemic has had on various individual and sector-specific roles. We're looking for a variety of individuals to share their personal and professional stories with us in a new blog series. If you are interested in taking part, please email Louise Brooks: Louise.Brooks@wdgpublichealth.ca

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](#).

In case you missed it – the recording of the webinar presentation *WDGPH Virtual School Community Update* is now available on our [website](#).

- [WDGPH Virtual School Community Update](#) (October 22)

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On October 26, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it will release its 2020 Budget on Thursday, November 5, focusing on protecting the health and safety of people during the pandemic, providing supports to families, workers, and employers, and laying the foundation for future growth, renewal and economic recovery.
- On October 26, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) will be available to businesses that have been operating out of a non-business banking account.
- On October 23, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing over \$5 million to help food rescue organizations, First Nation communities and Indigenous organizations purchase refrigerated trucks, freezers, storage space and kitchen equipment so they can safely collect, preserve and distribute unused, high-quality surplus food from places like grocery stores and restaurants to those in need during COVID-19 and beyond, ensuring fresh food does not go to waste.
- On October 23, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that the deadline to apply for the [Disability Tax Credit](#) (DTC) to receive the one-time payment has been extended from September 25, 2020, to December 31, 2020.
- On October 23, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#), announced an investment of up to \$173 million through the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) in Quebec City-based Medicago to support Canada's response to COVID-19 and future preparedness.
- On October 22, the [Government of Canada and Government of Alberta](#) announced a joint pilot program – the first of its kind in the country – that will safely test an alternative to the current 14-day quarantine requirement for international travellers while continuing to protect Canadians from COVID-19.

Additional Resources

- [Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes: COVID-19 Guidelines for Communal Dining](#) (October 23)
- [How to Quarantine \(Self-Isolate\) at Home When you may Have Been Exposed and Have No Symptoms](#) (October 23)
- [How to Isolate at Home When You May Have COVID-19](#) (October 23)
- [Halloween Posters and Safety Tips](#)

Ongoing COVID-19 Action

Face Coverings

On October 2 ([see News Release](#)), the Ontario government announced that when you go out anywhere in Ontario, you must use a face covering (non-medical mask, such as a cloth mask) in public indoor spaces and whenever physical distancing is a challenge. This includes [public spaces, workplaces and vehicles that operate as part of a business or organization](#), with some exceptions.

Visit our [website](#) for frequently asked questions on this topic and further information.



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

COVID-19 test results are available [online](#). If you receive a positive result you will have the option to report your information to Public Health through Contact +. Contact + is a voluntary, web-based service. **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.

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