

## COVID-19 Information Bulletin #71

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**Date issued:** November 17, 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).

**Please note that all editions of this Bulletin are posted on [our website](#).**

### 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 is available on [our website](#)

### WDG Current Status

Effective November 16, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health was moved to the [ORANGE \(Restrict\) level](#), as outlined in [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#) which was updated on November 13. Please review this framework to ensure your establishment follows any new sector specific public health and workplace safety measures. For further details on the regulatory requirements, please refer to [Ontario Regulation 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3](#). For long-term care homes, [visitor restrictions](#) will apply. [Provincial COVID-19 workplace resources](#) are available for different sectors to help develop a workplace safety plan and provide links to guidance in various languages.

### Enhanced Precautions for Congregate Living Settings

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) recently announced that all MCCSS-funded congregate living settings in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph region have moved to enhanced precautions. Previously, WDG was a region with additional precautions. MCCSS announced this update in a memo sent directly to MCCSS-funded congregate living settings in WDG on Friday, November 13. Additionally, MCCSS has updated their [Guidance on Enhanced Measures in Congregate Care Settings](#), to summarize the current precautions now in place under the enhanced precautions level. MCCSS-funded congregate living settings should continue to follow the guidance provided by MCCSS.

### Retirement Homes in WDG are in Alert Status

Ontario has developed a risk-based response system to continue to balance retirement home resident and staff safety with well-being. For the retirement homes sector, the Ontario government has established elevated alert areas based on the degree of COVID-19

transmission in a community and infection spread within the retirement homes. Effective November 17, retirement homes in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph area are in [Alert Status](#) and should follow all restrictions for this alert level as per the [Retirement Home COVID-19 Visiting Policy](#).

## Announcements and Changes to Services

- On November 16, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it has developed a comprehensive strategy to prevent COVID-19 transmission and protect workers and the province's food supply chain ahead of next year's growing season.
- On November 13, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is taking immediate action to respond to the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases and is updating the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#), by lowering the thresholds for each level in the framework.
- On November 13, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing \$350,000 in Integrated Packaging Films to help the company create new jobs and increase the production of PET film, contributing to the production of almost four million more face shields per month to help keep front line workers safe during the second wave of COVID-19.
- On November 13, [the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced the details of an investment of \$1.5 billion in the Workforce Development Agreements (WDAs) with provinces and territories to help Canadians in underrepresented groups and those in sectors that have been hardest hit by the pandemic quickly access supports to re-enter the workforce.

## Additional Resources

- [Entering Canada During COVID-19](#) (November 13)
- [Cohorting During an Outbreak of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Homes](#) (November 4)

## 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. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 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](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca)

Ontario Ministry of Health: [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus)

Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus)

Ontario Emergency Information: [www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information](http://www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information)