

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #81

Date issued: December 22, 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](#). This is the final edition of 2020. Publication will resume on January 5, 2020.

Current WDG Zone Level: [Control – Red \(O. Reg 263/20\)](#)

WDG Zone Level as of Saturday, December 26: [Provincewide Shutdown – Grey, \(O. Reg. 82/20\)](#)

Surveillance

- Information about cases in WDG can be found on [our website](#)
 - A feature has been added to [status of cases](#) to provide a comparison of COVID-19 cases by municipality. To view a case comparison map, click on 'Cases by Municipality'.
- 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](#)

Provincial Shutdown

Effective Saturday, December 26 the [Government of Ontario](#) is imposing a [provincewide shutdown](#). The current [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) will be paused when this comes into effect. The impacts of these time-limited measures will be evaluated throughout the 28 days in Southern Ontario to determine if it is safe to lift any restrictions or if they need to be extended.

Elementary school students in WDG are planned to be able to return to in-person learning on January 11, 2021, and secondary school students in WDG will continue learning remotely until January 25, at which point they may resume in-person learning. During this period, child care centres, authorized recreational and skill building programs and home-based child care services will remain open. From January 4-8 before and after school programs will be closed and emergency child care for health care and frontline workers will be provided.

WDG Holiday Hours

All WDG Public Health offices will be closed to the public starting December 24, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. and will re-open on January 4, 2021. All essential services will continue throughout the holidays including case and contact management for COVID-19. [Visit our website](#) for details on

specific programs and services during the holidays, COVID-19 Call Centre holiday hours and Assessment Centre holiday hours.

How to Get Your COVID-19 Test Results

Check the [COVID-19 Test Results Portal](#) (if you presented a green health card at the time of testing). If you are unable to check your results online please [visit our website](#) for further details and instructions specific to your testing location.

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On December 21, the [Canada Revenue Agency \(CRA\)](#) launched the [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Registry](#). This web page allows Canadians to identify which employers are using the wage subsidy to support jobs.
- On December 20, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that is suspending flights from the United Kingdom for 72 hours due the high number of cases of a variant COVID-19 virus observed in some areas there.
- On December 18, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is helping small and independent restaurants during COVID-19 by capping high food delivery fees.
- On December 18, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is distributing additional doses of the Pfizer vaccine to 17 more hospital sites over the next two weeks, including regions with the highest rates of COVID-19 infection.
- On December 18, the [Governments of Canada and Ontario](#) announced an investment of up to \$5 million in immediate, emergency assistance to help the province's beef farmers manage costs associated with the impacts of COVID-19 and to help protect Ontario's food supply network.
- On December 18, the [Government of Canada](#) announced details about the additional \$100 million in funding that is being provided to food banks and food security organizations who are experiencing increased pressure from the pandemic.
- On December 18, the [National Research Council of Canada \(NRC\)](#) announced it is providing advisory services and over \$9 million in funding through the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) to support four therapeutic firms purchase and develop COVID-19 treatments and related supplies.
- On December 18, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that the government has concluded the necessary regulatory changes to raise the maximum wage subsidy rate to 75 per cent for the period beginning Sunday, December 20, 2020, until March 13, 2021.
- On December 18, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is doubling funding for the Black Youth Action Plan by investing an additional \$60 million over three years to help Black families and communities recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On December 17, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is taking action to protect jobs by helping businesses avoid costly payouts and potential closures and continues offering protection to workers that are laid off due to COVID-19.

Additional Resources

- PHO's [Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\) Guidance for COVID-19 Immunization Clinics](#) (December 15)
- [Ontario Small Business Support Grant](#)

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 Saturdays 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.

Please note the Call Centre is closed Friday, December 25 to Sunday, December 27 and Friday, January 1. Please do not call Public Health for your test results. Visit [how to get your COVID-19 test results](#).

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

Ontario Emergency Information: www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information