

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #87

Date issued: January 21, 2021

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).

All editions of this bulletin are posted on [our website](#).

Current WDG Zone Level: [Provincewide Shutdown – Grey](#), (O. Reg. 82/20)

Please note that [Ontario Regulation 82/20](#) was amended on January 14, 2021 to include the additional measures announced by the [Government of Ontario](#), as outlined in [Enhancing Public Health and Workplace Safety Measures in the Provincewide Shutdown](#).

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](#)

New and Amended Guidance

- WDGPH's [COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship](#) (January 18)
- Minister's Directive [COVID-19: Long-Term Care Home Surveillance Testing and Access to Homes](#) (January 8)

Online Learning Extended in WDG Schools

Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, extended online-only learning for all schools in WDG until at least February 1, 2021. Her direction for in-person education for students with special education needs who cannot be accommodated through remote learning continues. See the [Media Release](#) for more information.

For the provincial announcement and information on regions that are allowing students to return to in-person learning next week visit the [Government of Ontario website](#).

Updated Guidance for Reopening Schools and Child Care

Please note that school and child care guidance is being updated to reflect enhanced health and safety measures when elementary and secondary schools return to in-person instruction and will be posted to our website when available. Updated measures include:

- Mandatory masking for students in Grades 1-3

- Mandatory masking for students and staff outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained
- Daily on-site confirmation of self-screening prior to or upon arrival to school for secondary students (effective February 10) and for all staff and visitors to schools and child care (effective January 25)

Continue to check the following provincial guidance documents as they are being updated to reflect enhanced health and safety measures:

- [COVID-19 Guidance for Reopening Schools](#)
- [Operational Guidance: COVID-19 Management in Schools](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Reopening Child Care Centres](#)

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On January 21, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced is working with transportation agencies and providers to support the [Stay-At-Home Order](#) and help stop the spread of COVID-19.
- On January 21, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is providing over \$12 million to add new mental health beds in hospitals and to expand programs that support the mental health and well-being of seniors across the province.
- On January 20, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is expanding the current workplace inspection campaign to further protect workers and customers at essential businesses.
- On January 19, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that the first round of vaccinations were completed ahead of schedule in all long-term care homes in Toronto, Peel, York and Windsor-Essex, the four regions with the highest COVID-19 transmission rates.

Additional Resources

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #7](#) (January 20)
- [Advice for Essential Retailers During COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (January 20)
- PHO's [What You Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (January 20)
- PHO's [COVID-19 Epidemiological Parameters – What We Know So Far](#) (January 17)

Contact Information for Additional Support

WDGPH COVID-19 Call Centre

Please note that our call centre is experiencing higher than normal call volumes due to the stay-at-home order and enhanced measures and restrictions.

- 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 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