

## COVID-19 Information Bulletin #17

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**Date issued:** May 12, 2020

**Purpose of bulletin:** To keep local stakeholders informed of the quickly-evolving novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and its implications for Wellington County, Dufferin County and the City of Guelph (WDG).

**Due to the evolving nature of the situation, further updates may be forthcoming. For more information visit [www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca)**

### Surveillance

- Information about cases in WDG can be found on [our website](#) and information about institutional outbreaks can be found in our [Retirement and Long-Term Care Outbreak Bulletin](#).

### New or Amended Guidance Documents

- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Acute Care](#) [May 10, 2020]
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Mental Health and Addictions Service Providers in Community Settings](#) [May 9, 2020]
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Emergency Childcare Centres](#) [May 8, 2020]
- **New:** WDGPH's [Guidance for Reopening Businesses](#) [May 12, 2020]
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Hospice Care](#) [May 7, 2020]
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes](#) [May 6, 2020]
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Home and Community Care Providers](#) [May 4, 2020]

### WDGPH Website Updates

We have added a dedicated [COVID-19 information section on our website for community stakeholders](#) like workplaces, businesses, daycares, congregate living and other sectors. Guidance documents, signs and fact sheets are posted. This page is under development, please check regularly for updates.

### Ontario Extends Emergency Declaration

- The [Government of Ontario](#) is extending the March 17 Declaration of Emergency under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, until **June 2, 2020**.
- The declaration will allow Ontario to continue to enforce [emergency orders](#), that are currently in effect until **May 19, 2020**. Please be aware that there is always the potential

for the Government of Ontario to extend the emergency orders past May 19, 2020 if deemed necessary.

- Please find below the declaration and a few of the current emergency orders ([full list available here](#)):
  - [Declaration of a provincial emergency](#)
  - [Closure of public places and establishments](#) (including recreational centres, libraries, private schools, childcare centres, bars and restaurants, theatres, concert venues) with exemption for emergency childcare for health care and frontline essential service workers
  - [Prohibiting events and gatherings of more than five people](#)
  - [Enforcement of emergency orders](#)
  - Work deployment for [health service providers](#) and [long-term care homes](#)
  - [Closure of non-essential workplaces](#)
  - [Streamlining requirements for long-term care homes](#)

Additionally, all publicly funded schools will remain closed until at least **May 31, 2020**.

## Foundations of COVID-19 Prevention and Control

Public Health Ontario has posted IPAC webinars for Long Term Care/Retirement Homes and Congregate Living Settings on their [website](#). The links to the audio recordings are embedded within the slides.



### Physical Distancing Floor Decal

- WDGPH has more physical distancing floor decals available for community partners to use at their locations.
- If you would like decals, please contact your corresponding WDGPH liaison.

## Guelph Assessment Centre Reduced Hours

Effective May 16, the COVID-19 Assessment Centre in Guelph will be reducing weekend and holiday hours. The centre will be open on Saturday, Sunday and holiday Monday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## SHOULD YOU GET TESTED FOR COVID-19?

**Please go to an assessment centre if you have at least one of the following symptoms:**

- fever
- new onset cough
- difficulty breathing
- chills
- fatigue
- headache
- sore throat
- runny, stuffy or congested nose
- lost sense of smell or taste
- hoarse voice
- difficulty swallowing
- digestive issues (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain) or
- for young children and infants: sluggishness or lack of appetite

Visit [wdgpublichealth.ca](http://wdgpublichealth.ca) for assessment centre locations and information.



**NO REFERRAL NEEDED**

### Community Supports

Toward Common Ground has updated their [List of Community Supports during COVID-19](#). The webpage provides a summary of many of the community resources available in Guelph and Wellington County. Toward Common Ground is a partnership of social and health service organizations.

### Guidance from Health and Safety Associations

The following associations have released a series of technical sector guidance documents to further support employers and workers:

- [Infrastructure Health and Safety Association](#)
- [Public Service Health and Safety Association](#)
- [Workplace Safety North](#)
- [Workplace Safety and Prevention Services](#)

These resources are also available on the [Government of Ontario's website](#) where they are arranged by sector.

### Announcements and Changes to Services

- On May 11, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#), announced new measures for businesses to keep their workers on the payroll during the COVID-19 outbreak. This includes:
  - Establishing a Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) to provide bridge financing to Canada's largest employers

- Expanding the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to mid-sized companies with larger financing needs
  - Continuing to provide financing to businesses through Farm Credit Canada, the BDC, and EDC, including through the Canada Account
- On May 11, the [Government of Ontario](#) encouraged school boards to proceed with celebrations of student achievement, subject to health and safety limitations. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, advised boards to reschedule events based on input from local Medical Officers of Health.
- On May 9, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that provincial parks and conservation reserves would be opening for limited day use. The first areas will be opening on May 11, with the remaining areas opening on May 15. Recreational activities will be limited to walking, hiking, biking and birdwatching. Access to all parks and conservation reserves will be free until the end of the month.
- On May 9, the [Government of Ontario](#) unveiled a plan that provides support to licensed child care providers to ensure they remain sustainable and are ready to open when parents return to work. This will include support for fixed operating costs for eligible centres, rapid funding delivery, a straightforward application process for centres that do not currently receive provincial funding, automatic extension of child care licenses set to expire during the emergency period, and support for staffing costs.
- On May 9, the [Government of Ontario](#) approved an emergency order to enable school board employees to be voluntarily re-deployed to congregate settings during the COVID-19 outbreak. Many of these congregate care settings need custodial staff and maintenance workers.
- On May 8, the [Government of Ontario](#) highlighted ongoing preparations for reopening the economy which included:
  - Providing \$241 million to the new Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (OCECRA) to deliver relief to small businesses
  - Providing \$10 billion in support for businesses to improve cash flows by providing a five-month penalty and interest-free period to make payments for most provincial taxes
  - Deferring the quarterly municipal remittance of education property tax
  - Allowing employers to defer Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) payments for up to six months.
- On May the 8, the [Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#) announced 2.25 million in provincially licensed meat processing plants to better protect employees and ensure supply of safe products to consumers during the COVID-19 outbreak. This investment will support purchasing additional personal protective equipment, redesigning workstations, supporting employees who require mandatory isolation, and work-site mobility and transportation.
- On May 8, the [Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries](#) announced that professional sport training facilities would be permitted to reopen, provided their respective sports leagues have established health and safety protocols in response to COVID-19.

## Additional Resources

- **New:** PHO's Physical Distancing [video](#) [May 11, 2020]
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Construction Guidance](#) [May 8, 2020]
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Food Processing Guidance](#) [May 8, 2020]
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Restaurant and Food Services Guidance](#) [May 8, 2020]
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Agriculture Guidance](#) [May 8, 2020]
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Manufacturing Guidance](#) [May 8, 2020]

## Contact Information for Additional Support

### Updated: WDGPH COVID-19 Call Centre

- **For health-related questions**, including symptoms, close contacts, travel or if you are a health care provider:
  - Call 519-822-2715 ext. 7006
  - Available Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and weekends from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- **For non-health related questions**, including business or workplace concerns, social distancing 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 website: [www.wdgpublichealth.ca](http://www.wdgpublichealth.ca)

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

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