

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #15

Date issued: May 5, 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

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

- **New:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Guidance: Essential Workplaces](#) [May 2, 2020]
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) [May 2, 2020]
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update](#) [May 2, 2020]

WDGPH Website

The [community supports and contacts page](#) has been updated to include more information about; food access supports, housing and shelter support, legal support, newcomer and immigrant services and immigrant supports.

WDG Assessment Centre

The Mount Forest Assessment Centre hours will be changing as of this weekend:

Mount Forest Sportsplex, 850 Princess St.

Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (closed from 12:30-1:30 p.m.).

Closed on weekends.

Safety and Health Week

May 3-9 is Safety and Health Week and [The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety \(CCOHS\)](#) announced that they will be celebrating it a little differently this year. With the physical distancing in place during the pandemic, CCOHS has suggestions for

workplaces to commemorate the week and promote safety in their workplaces through virtual activities and events. More information and tips are available at www.naosh.org.



Physical Distancing Floor Decal

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

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On May 4, [the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#), joined other global leaders to launch the [Coronavirus Global Response](#). This online pledging event aims to initially raise more than \$8 billion (USD) to help researchers and innovators develop solutions to test, treat, and prevent the further spread of COVID-19.
- On May 4, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced significant increases to daily lab testing for COVID-19. Ontario is now exceeding their target of 16,000 tests a day. Testing is being carried out in hospitals, long-term care homes, group homes, shelters, emergency child care centres, and other congregate settings. Labs are generally providing test results within 24 to 48 hours.
- On May 3, [Public Services and Procurement Canada](#) announced the creation of the [COVID-19 Supply Council](#) to provide the government with advice on the procurement of critical goods and services required as part of Canada's COVID-19 response and recovery.
- On May 3, [the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#), highlighted that families receiving the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) will get \$300 extra per child in May to help them deal with the added pressures of COVID-19. Eligible families will automatically receive this one-time increase as part of their scheduled CCB payment.
- On May 3, [the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#), announced an investment of \$240.5 million to develop virtual care and mental health tools to support Canadians. This investment will be used to create digital platforms and applications, improve access to virtual mental health supports, and expand capacity to deliver health care virtually. These supports will help ease the burden on our health care system, as we continue to deal with COVID-19.
- On May 3, [Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada](#) announced that the federal government will be providing \$175M to the British Columbia firm, AbCellera Biologics Inc, to support the development of COVID-19 treatments. The company has been examining the antibodies generated in response to the coronavirus and expects to begin human clinical trials this July to test new treatments.
- On May 1, the [Government of Ontario](#) passed an emergency order to defer a portion of Global Adjustment (GA) charges for industrial and commercial electricity consumers that do not participate in the Regulated Price Plan. This initiative is intended to provide

companies with temporary immediate relief on their monthly electricity bills in April, May and June 2020 due to COVID-19.

- On May 1, the [Government of Ontario](#) issued new temporary emergency orders to support hospitals to better manage health care human resources during the COVID-19 outbreak. these orders will:
 - give hospitals the authority to grant privileges to medical and other professional staff in order to address potential surge volumes due to COVID-19, thus allowing a reduction in administrative processes and enabling hospitals to focus their resources on frontline services;
 - authorize coroners, registered nurses appointed as coroner investigators, and public health units to access provincial electronic health records to help reduce demands on clinicians' time related to death investigations, reduce exposure to COVID-19 related death investigations, and improve the ability to monitor the spread of the virus; and
 - allow registered nurses appointed as coroner investigators to complete medical certificates of death instead of a physician or nurse practitioner so that medical professionals have more time to focus on patient care.

Additional Resources

- New: WDGPH's [Mental Health, Substance Use and Stigma](#)
- New: PHAC's Hand-washing heroes [video](#)
- New: PHAC's How to remove disposable gloves [video](#)
- New: PHO's How to Protect Yourself from COVID-19: Older Adults and People with Chronic Medical Conditions or Weakened Immune Systems [information sheet](#)
- New PHO's Mask Use for Non-Healthcare Workers [information sheet](#)

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.wdgppublichealth.ca

Ontario Ministry of Health webpage: www.ontario.ca/coronavirus

Public Health Agency of Canada webpage: www.canada.ca/coronavirus