

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #18

Date issued: May 14, 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

- **Highlights**
 - Apparent downward trend in community cases by onset date continues to be seen. Cases among residents of facilities also appear to be decreasing.
 - Emergency department visits related to respiratory and influenza-like symptoms continue to be at baseline.
 - Overall confirmed case fatality rate (percentage) in Canada continues to rise: at 7.3% it is now higher than the worldwide average of 6.7%.
- 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 [Case Definition COVID-19](#) [May 12, 2020]
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's COVID-19 [Reference Document for Symptoms](#) [May 12, 2020]
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Food Processing Guidance](#) [May 14, 2020]
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Restaurant and Food Services Guidance](#) [May 14, 2020]
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Agriculture Guidance](#) [May 14, 2020]
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Manufacturing Guidance](#) [May 14, 2020]

WDGPH Website Updates

We have updated our [COVID-19 information section for community stakeholders](#) on our website that includes information for: workplaces and businesses, long-term care and retirement homes, other congregate living spaces, emergency child care, food premises and other sectors. Guidance documents and signs are also posted. This page is being updated as new information arises, so please check regularly for updates.

Ontario Announces Additional Workplaces that can Reopen

On May 14, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced the list of retailers, seasonal businesses and health and community service providers who will be permitted to open or expand their services on Tuesday, May 19. Additional seasonal services and activities will be permitted to open as early as Saturday, May 16. These openings are conditional on the general trend of health indicators improving. Businesses allowed to open on May 16 include:

- Golf courses, with clubhouses open only for washrooms and restaurants open only for take-out.
- Marinas, boat clubs and public boat launches for recreational use.
- Private parks and campgrounds to enable preparation for the season and to allow access for trailers and recreational vehicles whose owners have a full season contract.
- Businesses that board animals, such as stables, may allow boarders to visit, care for or ride their animal.

Businesses allowed to open on May 19 include:

- Retail services that are not in shopping malls and have separate street-front entrances with measures in place that can enable physical distancing
- Seasonal businesses and recreational activities for individual or single competitors, including training and sport competitions conducted by a recognized national or provincial sport organization. This includes indoor and outdoor non-team sport competitions that can be played while maintaining physical distancing and without spectators
- Animal services, specifically pet care services, such as grooming and training, and regular veterinary appointments.
- Indoor and outdoor household services that can follow public health guidelines, such as housekeepers, cooks, cleaning and maintenance.
- Certain health and medical services such as in-person counselling and scheduled surgeries based on the ability to meet pre-specified conditions as outlined in [A Measured Approach to Planning for Surgeries and Procedures During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), as well as resuming professional services such as shifting Children's Treatment Centres from virtual to in-person.

Looking to start the planning for reopening your business? Check out the 90+ [Sector-specific Workplace Safety Reopening Guidance](#).

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 Meghan Wiles via email at meghan.wiles@wdgppublichealth.ca

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 wdgppublichealth.ca for assessment centre locations and information.



NO REFERRAL NEEDED

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On May 14, the [Governments of Canada and Ontario](#) announced that they are investing up to \$2.25 million to help farmers better protect employees and ensure the continued supply of healthy food products for consumers during the COVID-19 outbreak. The funding will be used for initiatives like purchasing personal protective equipment, enhanced cleaning and disinfection, and redesigning workstations.
- On May 13, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that people using the Ontario Drug Benefit Program will not be required to pay any co-payment for any prescription of 30+ days that is now being dispensed in installments. As well, Trillium Drug Program

households can apply for an income reassessment to reduce the financial burden of prescription drugs.

- On May 13, the [Government of Ontario](#) adopted an emergency order allowing the province to issue a mandatory management order for a long-term care home struggling to deal with a COVID-19 outbreak. This order gives the province the power to appoint a manager to step in should the facility be facing a high number of cases and deaths and staffing shortages. The manager could be any person, including a corporation or a hospital.
- On May 13, the [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#) announced that southern Ontario small and medium sized businesses that are unable to access other existing relief measures can now apply for [Regional Relief and Recovery Fund](#) (RRRF) support.
- On May 13, [Employment and Social Development Canada](#) announced that the application period for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) will begin on Friday, May 15, 2020. The CESB, which will be delivered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), will provide temporary income support to eligible post-secondary students and new graduates who are unable to work or find work this summer due to COVID-19, or are working and are not making over \$1000.
- On May 12, [Health Canada](#) authorized the first COVID-19 serological test for use in Canada, the DiaSorin LIAISON®. Canadian laboratories will use the test to detect antibodies specific to COVID-19. To date, 18 COVID-19 diagnostic testing devices have been authorized in Canada. A list of all authorized testing devices is posted on Health Canada's website.
- On May 12, [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#) announced a new temporary policy that drastically reduces the time it takes for a temporary foreign worker to start a new job. While this policy is in place, a worker who is already in Canada and has secured a new job offer, typically backed by a labour market test, can get approval to start working in their new job even if their work permit application is being fully processed. This will cut the process from 10 weeks or more to 10 days or less.
- On May 12, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced additional support for Canadian seniors. The measures include:
 - A one-time tax-free payment of \$300 for seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, with an additional \$200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement. (GIS)
 - Expanding the New Horizons for Seniors Program with an additional investment of \$20 million.
 - Temporarily extending GIS and Allowance payments if seniors' 2019 income information has not been assessed.

Additional Resources

- **New:** PHO's Actions you can Take to Stop the Spread of COVID-19 [video](#) [May 13, 2020]
- **New:** NCCEH's COVID-19 and Outdoor Safety: Considerations for use of Outdoor Recreational Spaces [synthesized evidence](#) [April 14, 2020]

Latest Research

Please note: this section outlines an unbiased summary of emerging scientific research and literature for COVID-19 and is not intended to reflect public health guidance or messaging.

Symptoms, Severity

- Based on a review of the evidence on cutaneous manifestations of COVID-19, [Tang K et al.](#) report that 60 of 228 confirmed cases in 14 studies (aged 8 to 84) developed skin rashes. “Exanthematous eruptions potentially related to COVID-19 infection were highly variable and heterogeneous. Skin lesions mainly appeared erythematous, urticarial, and vesicular (chicken pox-like or varicelliform).”
- According to a review by [Sedaghat AR et al.](#) current evidence shows that olfactory dysfunction, often accompanied by taste dysfunction, is highly prevalent in COVID-19, “with up to 80% of patients reporting subjective OD and objective olfactory testing potentially showing even higher prevalence... Up to 25% of COVID-19 patients may experience sudden-onset OD as the first symptom.” A study by [Roland LT et al.](#) estimated that a combination of 2 symptoms (change in sense of smell or taste and fever) had a sensitivity of 70% in indicating SARS-CoV-2 infection, leading to the conclusion that altered smell or taste is a strong predictor for a COVID-19 positive test result.

Control Measures/Epidemic Forecasting

- Work by [Matrajt L and Leung T](#) indicates that interventions started earlier in the epidemic delay the epidemic curve, while interventions started later flatten the epidemic curve. “We noted that, while social distancing interventions were in place, 20% of new cases and most hospitalizations and deaths were averted, even with modest reductions in contact among adults. However, when interventions ended, the epidemic rebounded.”

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

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

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