

## COVID-19 Information Bulletin #19

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**Date issued:** May 19, 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 [Patient Screening Guidance Document](#) [May 17, 2020]
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [Guidance for Reopening Businesses](#) [May 15, 2020]
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Labour, Delivery and Newborn Care](#) [May 19, 2020]

### Ontario Extends Emergency Orders

The [Government of Ontario](#) has extended all [emergency orders](#) that have been put in place to-date under s.7.0.2 (4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act until **May 29, 2020**. That includes the closure of all non-essential businesses (including but not limited to: bars and restaurants except for takeout and delivery only, personal services settings, and recreational water facilities), restrictions on social gatherings of more than five people, and staff redeployment rules for long-term care homes and congregate settings like retirement homes and women's shelters.

The government has also approved an exemption to the emergency order related to gatherings to allow Ontarians to attend drive-in religious gatherings, under certain conditions.

### Government Unveils Plans for Schools, Child Care Centres and EarlyON Programs

The [Ontario Government](#) is protecting the health and safety of students during the COVID-19 outbreak by keeping schools closed for the rest of this school year. Private schools, licensed child care centres and EarlyON programs will also remain closed through Stage 1 of

the Framework for Reopening the Province. [Emergency child care](#) will continue to operate and provide support for health care and other frontline workers. A gradual reopening of child care is expected to begin when the province is ready to transition to Stage 2 based on public health criteria, which will include robust safety protocols for the safety of Ontario's youngest learners and their staff.

## 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.

## Workplaces that can Reopen on May 19

On May 14, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced a list of retailers, seasonal businesses and health and community service providers who were permitted to open or expand their services on May 19. Businesses allowed to open 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](#).



## 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@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:meghan.wiles@wdgpublichealth.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.

## Announcements and Changes to Services

- On May 19, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced an expansion to the eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to include many owner-operated small businesses. This extended measure will allow more small businesses to access interest-free loans that will help cover operating costs during a period when revenues have been reduced, due to the pandemic.
- On May 16, [Employment and Social Development Canada](#) announced that charities and non-profit organizations requiring financial assistance to address the pandemic can apply for funding as of May 19, 2020 to support such activities as:
  - Increasing volunteer-based home deliveries of groceries and medications
  - Providing transportation services, like accompanying or driving seniors or persons with disabilities to appointments
  - Scaling up help lines that provide information and support
  - Providing training, supplies and other required supports to volunteers
  - Replacing in-person, one-on-one contact and social gatherings with virtual contact through phone calls, texts, teleconferences or the Internet
- On May 15, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) will be extended by an additional 12 weeks to August 29.
- On May 15, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced \$450 million in funding to help Canada's academic research community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The investment will:
  - Provide wage supports to universities and health research institutes, so they can retain research staff who are funded from industry or philanthropic sources and are unable to access some of the government's existing COVID-19 support measures.
  - Support universities and health research institutes to maintain essential research-related activities during the crisis, and to ramp back up to full research operations once physical distancing measures are lifted.

## Additional Resources

- **New:** PHAC's Help Reduce the Spread of COVID-19: Indigenous communities [information sheet](#)
- **New:** PHAC's Help Reduce the Spread of COVID-19 [information sheet](#)

- **New:** PHAC's About COVID-19 [information sheet](#)
- **New:** PHAC's People who are at High-risk for Severe Illness from COVID-19 [information sheet](#)
- **Updated:** [COVID-19 Resource: Guelph Emergency Food Access](#) [May 13, 2020]
- **Updated:** [COVID-19 Resource: Wellington County Emergency Food Access](#) [May 13, 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.wdgppublichealth.ca](http://www.wdgppublichealth.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)