

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #20

Date issued: May 21, 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](#).

Online Learning During the COVID-19 Outbreak

The province has [unveiled an expanded summer learning plan](#) for Ontario students to ensure they are able to continue their learning through the summer months. The programming replaces traditional summer school courses focused on grades 9 to 12, with additional opportunities for grade 8 students to better prepare for high school.

The seven-point plan will include:

- Introduction of upgrading courses, which will allow students to upgrade their mark in a course in half the time it would have previously taken.
- Targeted supports for vulnerable students.
- Focused programming for students with special education or mental health needs, including dedicated learning supports such as access to educational assistants.
- Virtual volunteer opportunities for students.

A more user-friendly Learn at Home site has been launched and an adapted summer learning site will be developed to provide resources to help students refresh their learning in preparation for 2020-21 courses. The site will focus on compulsory, high-demand, and prerequisite secondary courses, such as math, science, English, and French.

The resources are available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-at-home>.

Non-Medical Mask and Face Covering Recommendations

The Public Health Agency of Canada has released [specific recommendations](#) on how to choose, wear and care for appropriate face coverings used in public where physical distancing

is not possible such as on public transit or in a small grocery store or pharmacy. A [poster](#) about proper use of face coverings is also available from the Ministry of Health.

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.



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

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On May 20, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced that application documents and updated criteria for Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses is now available and that the program will be opened for applications beginning on May 25.
- On May 20, the [Department of Finance, Canada](#) announced the opening of the application process for the government's Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF). The program will support Canada's largest employers, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing. LEEFF will help successful applicants keep their operations going.
- On May 19, the [Ministry of Long-Term Care](#) announced that they will be launching an independent commission into Ontario's long-term care system beginning in September. The commission will provide guidance on how to improve the long-term care system and protect residents and staff from future outbreaks.
- On May 19, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced they are collaborating with Medical Innovation Xchange (MIX), Canada's first industry-led hub for med-tech start-ups, to provide non-medical manufacturing companies free support as they retool to provide essential supplies and equipment to health care facilities during COVID-19.

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