

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #23

Date issued: June 2, 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 and Directives

- **New:** Ministry of Health's Summer Day Camp Guidance *[to be posted on the Ministry website soon]*
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [WDGPH COVID-19 Guidance for Reopening Businesses](#) [June 2]
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [WDGPH COVID-19 Checklist for Reopening Businesses and Workplaces](#) [June 2]
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update](#) [May 28]
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) [May 28]
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Guidance: Congregate Living for Vulnerable Populations](#) [May 28]
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Construction Site Safety During COVID-19](#) [May 29]
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Restaurant and Food Services Health and Safety During COVID-19](#) [May 29]
- **Updated:** Public Health Agency of Canada's [Guidance for Providers of Services for People Experiencing Homelessness](#) (in the context of COVID-19) [May 29]
- **Updated:** Public Health Agency of Canada's [National Laboratory Testing Indication Guidance for COVID-19](#) [May 27]
- **Updated:** Public Health Agency of Canada's [Risk Mitigation Tool for Workplaces/Businesses Operating During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) [May 30]
- **Updated:** Public Health Agency of Canada's [Advice for Essential Retailers during COVID-19 Pandemic](#) [May 30]

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Sector-Specific Guidance

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety has created an online space for businesses and organizations to share and browse [free pandemic-related resources](#). Documents are being posted as they become available and include checklists, guides and toolkits for a variety of sectors.

COVID-19 Assessment Centres

Learn about COVID-19 assessment centres and what you need to know before you get tested.

- Full details on WDG assessment centres are available at: <https://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/your-health/covid-19-information-public/assessment-centres-wdg>
- Full details on other Ontario assessment centres are available at: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations/>.



Physical Distancing Floor Decals

- WDGPH has 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 June 1, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that it will support electricity customers by providing:
 - \$9 million for the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) to support consumers struggling to pay their energy bills during the pandemic.
 - \$8 million for the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program for Small Business (CEAP-SB) to provide support to businesses struggling with bill payments as a result of the outbreak; and
 - An extension of the Ontario Energy Board's winter disconnection ban until July 31, 2020 to ensure no one is disconnected from their natural gas or electricity service.
- On June 1, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced that funding delivered through the federal Gas Tax Fund will be accelerated this year to help communities as quickly as possible. Annual federal infrastructure funding for communities will be delivered in one payment in June. Early delivery of the full funding for 2020-21 will help communities quickly move forward with infrastructure projects that will help restart local economies.

- On June 1, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced a new regulatory amendment that will put non-unionized employees on [Infectious Disease Emergency Leave](#) during the COVID-19 outbreak any time their hours of work are temporarily reduced by their employer due to COVID-19. This will ensure businesses aren't forced to terminate employees after their ESA temporary layoff periods have expired.
- On May 31, the [Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages](#), announced that the [Tourism Industry Association of Ontario \(TIAO\)](#) will receive \$30 million in FedDev Ontario RRRF funding to provide financial relief to destination marketing organizations (DMOs) across southern Ontario that have experienced significant revenue shortfalls due to COVID-19.
- On May 31, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that backcountry camping will be available at Ontario Parks as of June 1, including access points, paddle and portage routes and hiking trails. Ontario Parks will also be expanding day-use activities to include picnicking and off-leash pet areas.
- On May 30, the [Government of Ontario](#) made amendments to the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010* regulation, enabling the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority (RHRA) to better support seniors living in retirement homes during the COVID-19 outbreak. The change increases the RHRA emergency payment to eligible retirement home residents from \$2,000 to \$3,500. In the event of an emergency, this funding can be used to cover costs for transportation, alternative accommodation or temporary care. The regulation change also requires retirement homes to report infectious disease outbreaks to the RHRA during COVID-19 and beyond.
- On May 30, the [Government of Ontario](#) also announced regulatory changes were also made to extend an emergency order to provide electricity bill relief for industrial and commercial consumers through to the end of June 2020. It was also announced that drive-in movie theatres and batting cages would be allowed to open effective May 31, 2020. Drive-in cinemas and drive-in religious services can now allow the use of washrooms provided health and safety requirements are followed.
- On May 30, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that a fixed electricity price, known as the COVID-19 Recovery Rate, of 12.8 cents per kWh, will be automatically applied to all time-of-use customers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This fixed electricity price will be in place from June 1 - October 31, 2020.
- On May 29, the [Minister of Transport](#) announced updated measures, due to COVID-19, pertaining to cruise ships and passenger vessels in Canadian waters.
 - Cruise ships with overnight accommodations allowed to carry more than 100 persons are prohibited from operating in Canadian waters until October 31, 2020.
 - As of July 1, 2020, all other passenger vessels must follow provincial, territorial, local and regional health authority requirements for timelines and processes to resume operations.
- On May 29, the [Government of Ontario](#) implemented the next phase of its COVID-19 testing plan, [Protecting Ontarians Through Enhanced Testing](#). This phase includes significant expansion of testing of symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals and increased proactive surveillance testing to detect outbreaks and monitor spread among vulnerable populations.

- On May 29, the [Government of Ontario](#) in partnership with the federal government, launched Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses. The province is committing \$241 million to the program, which will provide more than \$900 million in support for small businesses across Ontario during the pandemic. Visit [Ontario.ca/rentassistance](#) for more information.
- On May 29, the [City of Guelph](#) announced that City of Guelph summer camps, recreation programs, permits and events at City facilities are cancelled until September 8, 2020.
- On May 28, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced the extension of the mandate of the Incident Management System Long-Term Care Table, which has been coordinating operational support to long-term care homes since April. The table is comprised of health care professionals who make immediate decisions to address issues related to staffing levels, infection management and resources during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- On May 27, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that long-term care inspection teams have been deployed to conduct comprehensive, detailed inspections at high-risk long-term care homes over the next 21 days.

Additional Resources

- **New:** PHAC's COVID-19: New requirements for people entering Canada [video](#) [May 28]
- **New:** PHAC's Know the facts about COVID-19 [information sheet](#) [May 28]
- **New:** PHAC's People who are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 [information sheet](#) [May 28]
- **New:** PHAC's Vulnerable populations and COVID-19 [information sheet](#) [May 28]
- **New:** PHAC's How to care for a child with COVID-19 at home: Advice for caregivers [information sheet](#) [May 28]
- **New:** PHAC's How to quarantine (self-isolate) at home when you may have been exposed and have no symptoms [information sheet](#) [May 28]
- **New:** PHAC's Physical distancing: How to slow the spread of COVID-19 [information sheet](#) [May 28]
- **New:** PHAC's Help reduce the spread of COVID-19 [information sheet](#) [May 27]
- **New:** PHAC's Help reduce the spread of COVID-19: Information for Indigenous communities [information sheet](#) [May 27]

Contact Information for Additional Support

Updated: WDGPH COVID-19 Call Centre

- **For health-related questions**, including symptoms, close contacts, or travel:
 - 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: www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca

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

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