

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #25

Date issued: June 9, 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 the [Retirement and Long-Term Care Outbreak Bulletin](#).
- Information about local assessment centres and testing criteria is available on [our website](#).

New or Amended Guidance Documents and Directives

- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Acute Care](#) [June 5]

Ontario Permits More Businesses and Services to Open

The Ontario government has [announced](#) that they are moving forward with a regional approach to Stage 2 of reopening the province. In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and local health officials, the government is easing restrictions in communities where it is safe to do so based on trends of key public health indicators such as lower rates of transmission, increased capacity in hospitals and progress made in testing. As of June 12, the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health region may move into Stage 2. Businesses and services permitted to reopen with proper health and safety measures in place include:

- Outdoor dine-in services at restaurants, bars and other establishments, including patios, curbside, parking lots and adjacent properties;
- Select personal and personal care services with the proper health and safety measures in place, including tattoo parlours, barber shops, hair salons and beauty salons;
- Shopping malls under existing restrictions, including food services reopening for take-out and outdoor dining only;
- Tour and guide services, such as bike and walking, bus and boat tours, as well as tasting and tours for wineries, breweries and distilleries;
- Water recreational facilities such as outdoor splash pads and wading pools, and all swimming pools;
- Beach access and additional camping at Ontario Parks;

- Camping at private campgrounds;
- Outdoor-only recreational facilities and training for outdoor team sports, with limits to enable physical distancing;
- Drive-in and drive-through venues for theatres, concerts, animal attractions and cultural appreciation, such as art installations;
- Film and television production activities, with limits to enable physical distancing; and
- Weddings and funerals, with limits on social gatherings to ten people.

Additionally, all places of worship in Ontario will also be permitted to open with physical distancing in place and attendance limited to no more than 30 per cent of the building capacity to ensure the safety of worshippers.

Ontario Reopening Child Care with Strict Protocols

Today, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that child care centres and home care providers will be able to reopen with strict safety and operational requirements in place, similar to the safety guidelines required for emergency child care centres. Centres will be required to adopt specific rules, including:

- Putting children and staff in groups of 10 or less;
- Having a plan in place if a child, parent or staff member/provider is exposed to COVID-19;
- Screening for staff and children prior to entry to the child care setting. Anyone feeling unwell must stay home;
- Keeping daily records of all attendees in order to support contact tracing;
- Thorough cleaning before opening and frequently thereafter;
- Allowing only essential visitors into the child care setting;
- Implementing drop-off and pick-up protocols in a way that facilitates physical distancing.

Effectively immediately, staff can re-enter child care facilities and begin preparation for reopening. When all the strict and stringent guidelines for reopening have been met, they will be permitted to reopen.

Ontario Extends Emergency Orders

The [Ontario government](#) has extended all emergency orders currently in force under s.7.0.2 (4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act until June 19, 2020. With the June 8, 2020 regional [reopening announcement](#) by the province under [Stage 2](#), the emergency orders that have required the closure of some businesses and restricted gatherings and activities will be amended to reflect these changes. Some business closures and restrictions will continue to be in place under these emergency orders until the current revocation date of June 19, 2020, unless the Ontario Government further extends the amended emergency orders, as deemed necessary. The [Ontario Framework for Reopening our Province – Stage 2](#) indicates additional re-openings of workplaces and community spaces will be considered in Stage 3. Staff redeployment rules remain in place for long-term care homes and congregate settings like retirement homes and women's shelters. A full list of the emergency orders and related amendments that have been extended can be found [here](#). **(At the time this bulletin was**

prepared, the emergency orders and amendments had not yet been updated to reflect the re-openings permitted on June 12, 2020).

A Note on the Difference between the Declaration of Emergency and Emergency Orders

The Declaration of Emergency is currently extended until June 30, 2020 under the [Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act](#). During a declared emergency, the Lieutenant Governor in Council has the authority to make emergency orders to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Ontario, when it is believed to be necessary and essential to prevent, reduce or mitigate serious harm to the public. The [emergency orders](#) that fall under this declaration are now currently in effect until [June 19, 2020](#). Emergency orders can only be extended for a period of 14 days, hence the reason for the emergency orders to be extended every two weeks or so.



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 8, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced proposed changes to the *Commercial Tenancies Act* which would temporarily halt evictions of businesses that are eligible for federal/provincial rent assistance. If passed, the legislation would reverse evictions that occurred on or after June 3, 2020. The government intends to bring this legislation forward as soon as possible.
- On June 8, the [Canada Border Services Agency](#) announced that immediate family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents, who do not have COVID-19 or exhibit any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or who do not have reason to believe they have COVID-19, will be exempt from the prohibition on entry to Canada if entering to be with an immediate family member for a period of at least 15 days. Foreign nationals who are admitted into Canada pursuant to this exemption must [quarantine](#) for 14 days.
- On June 6, Employment and Social Development Canada announced an additional \$1.1 million in funding to support national disability organizations through the Social Development Partnership Program - Disability Component to enhance their communications and engagement activities to better address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities.
- On June 4, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced the Premier's Council on Equality of Opportunity, a new advisory group that will provide advice on how young people can

overcome social and economic barriers and achieve success. The council will also advise government on long-term actions that can be taken to support youth during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Ontario government also announced that \$1.5 million will go to organizations that support Black families and youth. This funding will be used to provide urgent COVID-19 supports and address the immediate needs of children, youth and families.

- On June 4, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#), announced that seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) will receive their special one-time, tax-free payment during the week of July 6. Seniors eligible for the OAS pension will receive a payment of \$300, and those also eligible for the GIS will receive an additional \$200 for a total of \$500. Allowance recipients will also receive \$500. This \$2.5 billion in financial support will help Canadian seniors cover increased costs caused by COVID-19.

Additional Resources

- **Updated:** Ontario Government's Sector Specific [posters and guidance](#) [June 8]
- **Updated:** PHAC's How to safely use a non-medical mask or face covering [information sheet](#) [June 6]
- **Updated:** PHAC's [Risk mitigation tool for workplaces/businesses operating during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) [June 5]
- **Updated:** PHAC's Let's protect each other from COVID-19 [recording](#) [June 5]
- **New:** Ontario Government's Retail Sector [tip sheet](#) [June 3]
- **Updated:** PHAC's [Risk mitigation tool for outdoor recreation spaces and activities operating during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) [June 3]
- **Updated:** PHAC's [A framework for risk assessment and mitigation in community settings during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) [June 3]

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