

## COVID-19 Information Bulletin #27

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**Date issued:** June 16, 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 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 [COVID-19 Acute Care Guidance](#) [to be posted soon]
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Operational Requirements for Health Sector Restart](#) [to be posted soon]
- **New:** Ontario Health's [COVID-19 Surveillance Testing-Guidance Regarding Retirement Homes Staff and Resident Testing](#) [June 12]
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's COVID-19 [Patient Screening Guidance](#) [June 11]
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Guidance: Workplace Outbreaks](#) [June 11]
- **Updated:** [Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007](#) [June 10]

### COVID-19 Testing

Please go to an [Assessment Centre](#) to get tested. Public Health **DOES NOT** provide testing. No referral is needed. **Bring your health card to the assessment centre** (if you have one). It is OK if it is expired. Presenting your health card allows you to:

- Check your test results online. Public Health only calls those who test positive.
- Be treated or prescribed medication for other respiratory conditions if needed and if this option is available at your assessment centre.
- Move through the testing process faster.

Further instruction will be provided by the clinician at the assessment centre based on individual assessment. Be prepared for increased wait times at the assessment centres.

## Ontarians Encouraged to Establish Social Circles

The [Government of Ontario](#) is encouraging people to establish a social "circle" of no more than 10 people who can interact and come into close contact with one another without physical distancing.

Ontarians who wish to form a safe social circle should follow these guidelines:

- Start with your current circle: the people you live with or who regularly come into your household;
- If your current circle is under 10 people, you can add members to your circle, including those from another household, family members or friends;
- Get agreement from everyone that they will join the circle;
- Keep your social circle safe. Maintain physical distancing with anyone outside of your circle; and
- Be true to your circle. No one should be part of more than one circle.

The province has developed a practical [step-by-step](#) guide to help Ontarians as they safely develop and join a social circle.

## Weddings, Funerals and Places of Worship

On June 12, the [Government of Ontario](#) extended the number of people allowed to attend an indoor wedding or funeral ceremony to a maximum of 30 per cent capacity of the ceremony venue. Outdoor wedding and funeral ceremonies will be limited to 50 attendees. These attendee limits also apply to places of worship holding indoor and outdoor weddings, funerals or religious services, rites or ceremonies. The maximum number of people allowed to attend indoor or outdoor wedding and funeral receptions remains at 10 people. For more information please [visit our website](#).

## Workplace Safety Plan

The [Government of Ontario](#) is providing employers with a new general workplace guide which will help them develop a safety plan to better protect their workers, customers and clients from COVID-19. The [toolkit](#) includes information on the use of face coverings, as well as applying controls in the workplace, from most important to least important. It also includes information on what personal protective equipment may be needed for workers.

## Face Coverings Required for Commercial Businesses in WDG

Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health, has issued an order under Section 22 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act. A face covering is required for any customer, patron, employee or visitor when entering and while on the premises of any commercial establishment in the WDG region, effective 12:01 a.m. on June 12, 2020. The order will be in effect until rescinded. For more details on the order and frequently asked questions, [visit our website](#) or contact our call centre at 519-822-2715 ext. 4020.

## WDG Public Health Website Updates

Remember to check the COVID-19 information section [for workplaces & living spaces](#) on our website that includes information for: workplaces and businesses, long-term care and retirement homes, other congregate living settings, schools, child care providers, summer day camp providers, recreational water facilities, food premises, personal service settings, sport and recreation settings and other sectors. Guidance documents and resources are being updated as new information arises, so please check regularly for updates.



## Physical Distancing Floor Decals

- WDG Public Health 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@wdgppublichealth.ca](mailto:meghan.wiles@wdgppublichealth.ca)

## Announcements and Changes to Services

- On June 15, the [Government of Canada](#) launched the \$50 million Surplus Food Rescue Program. The program aims to move surplus food commodities such as potatoes and other horticulture, fish and seafood and meat through the food system as efficiently as possible to help vulnerable Canadians. Many producers across Canada have been left with surpluses of quality food due to disruptions to the food system from COVID-19.
- On June 15, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that as of June 19, 2020, applications will be accepted so that more small businesses can access the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA). This means that owner-operated small businesses that had been ineligible for the program due to their lack of payroll, sole proprietors receiving business income directly, or family-owned corporations remunerating in the form of dividends rather than payroll will become eligible this week.
- On June 15, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that they are creating additional educational content for students and teachers during the school closures resulting from COVID-19. Up to \$1.5 million is being provided to create videos and resources to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning. The resources will align with the four science strands in the curriculum and will help students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- On June 15, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced a proposed regulatory change to mandate the reporting of data on race, income, language and household size for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in order to provide a complete picture of the outbreak. This change will allow for consistent data collection across the province.
- On June 15, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that CSA Group Testing & Certification Inc. would be receiving \$526,200 from the Ontario Together Fund to

increase capacity for testing and certifying personal protective equipment (PPE). CSA Group Testing & Certification Inc. is a subsidiary of the Canadian Standards Association. The organization tests, inspects and certifies products to ensure compliance with safety, environmental and operating performance standards.

- On June 15, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that additional public health regions across Ontario would be allowed to move into Stage 2 and could begin reopening this Friday, June 19. Regions remaining in Stage 1, under ongoing assessment until trends of key public health indicators demonstrate readiness to move into Stage 2 include: Peel Public Health, Toronto Public Health and Windsor-Essex County Health Unit.
- On June 12, [Transport Canada](#) announced that air operators must conduct temperature screenings at the point of departure for international flights to Canada, unless the local authority has an equivalent measure in place, in addition to the existing required health check questions for symptoms prior to boarding. Within Canada, temperature screening of passengers will be conducted as part of departure screening procedures. This is in addition to the health screening questions and the wearing of face coverings that are already required for all passengers.
- On June 12, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced the investment of \$1 million to improve access to healthy meals and snacks for school-age children and youth during the COVID-19 outbreak. As a result of the province-wide school closures, the Student Nutrition Program has had to find new ways to support families experiencing increased food insecurity including; distributing grocery gift cards or farm vouchers, delivering food boxes, meal kits or frozen meals and supporting food banks to provide nutritious items to families with school-age children.
- On June 12, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced the expansion of the Agri-food Workplace Protection Program and committed up to \$15 million to enhance health and safety measures on farms and in food processing facilities. By significantly expanding the program, farmers can take additional steps to improve health and safety for their workers and ensure the continued supply of locally grown food during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- On June 11, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced the removal of the recommended 30-day supply limit for dispensing Ontario Drug Benefit program medications. Effective June 15, 2020, program recipients can return to filling up to 100-day supply at a time from their pharmacy or dispensing physician.

## Additional Resources

- **New:** WSPS's [Guidance on Health and Safety for Places of Worship During COVID-19](#) [June 15]
- **New:** WDGPH's Establishing Social Circles [webpage](#) [June 12]
- **Updated:** PHAC's [Guidance for Providers of Services for People Experiencing Homelessness](#) (in the context of COVID-19) [June 11]
- **Updated:** PHAC's [Risk mitigation tool for workplaces/businesses operating during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) [June 12]
- **New:** PHO's Reduce the Spread of COVID-19: Hygiene for Kids [video](#) [June 12]

- **New:** PHO's For Travellers without Symptoms Returning to Canada [information sheet](#) [June 11]
- **New:** PHO's For Travellers with Symptoms Returning to Canada [information sheet](#) [June 11]
- **New:** PHO's For Persons Exempt from Mandatory Quarantine [information sheet](#) [June 11]

## Contact Information for Additional Support

### 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/face covering 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](http://www.wdgpublichealth.ca)

Ontario Ministry of Health: [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus)

Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus)