

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #29

Date issued: June 23, 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:** Government of Ontario's [Agriculture Sector Guidance](#) [June 22]
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Community Pharmacies](#) [June 19]
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Independent Health Facilities](#) [June 19]
- **Updated:** PHAC's [Risk mitigation tool for gatherings and events operating during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) [June 19]

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.

Ontario Prepares for Schools Re-Opening in September

The Government of Ontario has released its safety plan, [Approach to Reopening Schools for the 2020-21 School Year](#). School boards are being asked to plan for the following three scenarios that may need to be implemented in September depending on the province's COVID-19 situation at that time.

1. Normal school day routine with enhanced public health protocols.
2. Modified school day routine allowing for physical distancing and cohorts of students with a limit of 15 students per typical classroom and a single teacher for as much of the day as possible. This model would require alternate day or alternate week delivery to a segment of the class at one time.
3. At home learning in the case of school closure being extended or parents choosing not to send their children back to school.

School boards have been asked to prepare their own safety plans for the upcoming school year and submit them to the Ministry by August 4, 2020. More information about this announcement can be found [here](#).

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.

Guidelines for Reopening

Don't forget to check out the ever-evolving updates about reopening on our website.

Quick Links:

- [General Workplaces and Businesses](#)
- [Food Premises and Events](#)
- [Child Care Providers](#)
- [Summer Day Camps](#)
- [Personal Service Settings](#)
- [Recreational Water Facilities](#)
- [Water Quality for Reopening Buildings](#)
- [Sport and Recreation Settings](#)



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

Health and Safety Sector-Specific Guidance

Sector-specific guidelines and posters to help protect workers and the public from COVID-19 are available from the Government of Ontario. These [guidance documents](#) are being posted and updated as they become available, so check back regularly.

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On June 23, the [Government of Canada](#) announced changes to extend time periods for temporary layoffs due to the pandemic, to allow employers more time to recall laid-off employees. These changes do not apply to employees covered by a collective agreement that contain recall rights.
 - For employees laid off prior to March 31, 2020, the time period is extended by six months or to December 30, 2020, whichever occurs first.
 - For employees laid off between March 31, 2020, and September 30, 2020, the time period is extended until December 30, 2020, unless a later recall date was provided in a written notice at the time of the layoff.
- On June 22, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that the city of Toronto and Peel Region will be moving into Stage 2 on June 24. Windsor-Essex will remain in Stage 1 and continue to be assessed on an ongoing basis.
- On June 19, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that they are providing up to \$10 million to Indigenous-owned small and medium sized businesses to help them with much needed capital as the province reopens the economy.
- On June 19, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced an investment of \$736 million more in public education for the 2020-21 school year, increasing the total to more than \$25.5 billion. Every school board in Ontario will receive a funding increase to ensure student safety and success.
- On June 19, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that the Exceptional Hazard Allowance has been amended to compensate Canadian Armed Forces members who are deployed in COVID-19 risk environments. Hundreds of Canadian Armed Forces members are currently deployed to long-term care facilities in Ontario and Quebec.
- On June 19, the [Government of Canada](#) announced \$15.8 million to create green jobs and training opportunities for Canadian youth in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in the energy, forestry, mining, earth sciences and clean

technology sectors. The funding is part of the \$9-billion Government of Canada COVID-19 response for students announced by the Prime Minister on April 22, 2020.

- On June 18, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced the upcoming launch of a new nation-wide mobile app to provide notifications of exposure to COVID-19 across Canada, with beta testing to begin in Ontario. The app, originally developed by the Government of Ontario, will help Canadians and public health officials identify and isolate the spread of the virus more quickly.
- On June 18, the [Ontario Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce](#), announced that \$15 million would be provided to purchase up to 35,000 classroom computers in schools. An additional \$10 million will also be provided to hire additional mental health workers for students whose mental health and well-being have been impacted by COVID-19.

Additional Resources

- **New:** PHO's You Were Tested for COVID-19: What You Should Know [information sheet](#) [June 22]

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 – Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 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

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

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