

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #35

Date issued: July 14, 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](#).

WDG Moving into Stage 3 of Re-opening

The [Government of Ontario](#) has announced that WDG will move to Stage 3 of the province's reopening framework on **July 17**. More businesses and public spaces will reopen with public health and workplace safety measures and restrictions in place. As part of the Stage 3 reopening, gathering limits for indoor and outdoor events will be increased to the following:

- Indoor gathering limits will increase to a maximum of 50 people;
- Outdoor gathering limits will increase to a maximum of 100 people;
- **Gathering limits are subject to physical distancing requirements.**

The following high-risk places and activities are not yet safe to open:

- Amusement parks and water parks;
- Buffet-style food services;
- Dancing at restaurants and bars, other than by performers hired by the establishment following specific requirements;
- Overnight stays at camps for children;
- Private karaoke rooms;
- Prolonged or deliberate contact while playing sports;
- Saunas, steam rooms, bath houses and oxygen bars;
- Table games at casinos and gaming establishments.

For more information on [Ontario Regulation 364/20 and the rules for areas in Stage 3](#) as well as the public health guidance necessary to keep people safe, visit [Ontario.ca/reopen](https://ontario.ca/reopen).

Section 22 Order Updated in Response to Stage 3 Announcement

Dr. Mercer has updated her Section 22 Order on the use of face coverings in commercial establishments. The original order was issued on June 10 and revised on June 12. Changes to the order include:

1. Clarifying language around exemptions to the Order to ensure commercial establishments and members of the public know when face coverings are not required. The revised document also provides clear guidance for commercial establishments on how to respond to exemptions provided by patrons. Further information on these changes can be found under Section 1D of the Order and in the section titled “Definitions and Scope of the Order.”
2. An expanded list of commercial establishments consistent with the provincial government’s Stage 3 reopening announcement. The expanded list can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the Order.

To read the complete Section 22 Class Order, visit our [website](#).

Ontario Addressing Racism and Inequity in Schools

The [Government of Ontario](#) announced new changes to the education system that will help break down barriers for Black, Indigenous and racialized students and provide all students with an equal opportunity to succeed. As part of this action, the province will move forward with ending Grade 9 streaming into applied and academic courses, strengthening sanctions for teachers who engage in behaviour of a racist nature and providing teachers with additional anti-racism and anti-discrimination training.

Through Bill 197, *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020*, the government is also proposing to eliminate discretionary suspensions for students from kindergarten up to Grade 3, beginning September 2020. Serious offences will still be subject to mandatory suspensions.

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On July 10, [Natural Resources Canada](#) announced the federal government’s intent to provide up to \$30 million to offset additional costs associated with COVID-19 safety measures for small and medium enterprises in the forest sector, including tree-planting operations.
- On July 9, [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada](#) announced that the governments of Canada and Ontario are enhancing AgriInsurance coverage for the 2020 growing season to include labour shortages due to COVID-19.
- On July 9, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced the expansion of access to reliable broadband and cellular service in underserved and unserved parts of the province as more people work and learn from home due to COVID-19.

Ongoing COVID-19 Action

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.

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*.

What this means:

- 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.

Individuals who may be exempted from this Order:

- Children under the age of two years.
- Children under the age of five years (either chronologically or developmentally) who refuse to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver.
- People whose ability to breathe is in any way inhibited by the face covering.
- People that have any other medical reason they cannot wear a face covering safely, such as, but not limited to, respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties or difficulties in hearing or processing information.

Learn more about the [wear and care of face coverings](#).



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@wdgphealth.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.

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