

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #40

Date issued: July 30, 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 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 and Amended Guidance Documents and Directives

- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Childcare Guidance](#) (July 29)
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Guide to Re-opening Ontario's Schools](#) (July 30)

School Reopening Plans

The [Government of Ontario](#) has announced the reopening of schools for in-class instruction beginning this September. This plan was developed in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the COVID-19 Command Table and paediatric experts.

Elementary schools (Kindergarten to Grade 8) will reopen provincewide, with in-class instruction five days a week. Secondary schools with lower risk will reopen with a normal daily schedule, five days a week, while most secondary schools will start the school year in an adapted model of part-time attendance with class cohorts of up to 15 students alternating between attending in-person and online. Students from Grade 4-12 and school staff will be required to wear masks. Parents will continue to have the option to enroll their children in remote delivery.

For more information on safe reopening of schools visit: [Actions Taken to Keep Schools Safe During Reopening](#).

Reopening of Child Care Centres

The [Government of Ontario](#) has announced that licensed child care centres across Ontario will be permitted to open at full capacity starting September 1, 2020. EarlyON Child and Family Centres will also be permitted to reopen with in-person programming along with before and after

school programs for school-aged children. All these programs will be subject to health and safety protocols. These include:

- Requiring all child care staff to wear masks at all times
- Ensuring frequent cleaning of child care centres;
- Screening of children and staff before entering a childcare facility;
- Maintaining attendance records for rigorous contact tracing and coordination with local public health authorities;
- Ensuring frequent hand washing and proper hand hygiene for children and staff; and
- Establishing clear and rigid case management protocols in the event a staff member or child becomes ill, or tests positive for COVID-19.

Ontario will provide additional funding, with support from the federal government through the Safe Restart Agreement, to help child care operators and EarlyON Child and Family Centres purchase cleaning supplies, PPE, and support staffing needs related to new procedures.

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On July 29, the [Government of Ontario](#) launched an independent commission into COVID-19 and long-term care to help prevent residents and staff from future outbreaks.
- On July 29, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that the City of Toronto and Region of Peel will be moving into Stage 3 of reopening the province on July 31.

Additional Resources

- Transport Canada's [Federal Guidance for School Bus Operations](#)

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.

Check Your COVID-19 Test Results Online

The Ontario government has launched an online [COVID-19 Test Result Viewer](#). This offers fast and secure access to test results on your computer or mobile device. NOTE: **Online test results are only available to those with an Ontario photo (green) health card.**

If you receive a positive result via the online COVID-19 Test Result Viewer, you will have the option to report your information to Public Health through Contact +. Contact + is a voluntary, web-based service for positive results received via the COVID-19 Test Result Viewer. **It does not replace the call you get from Public Health.** Contact + allows you to confirm your contact details as well as review and answer the questions that Public Health will ask you, in advance of your call. You may add this information for up to 48 hours after your positive test result is reported. For more information about Contact +, visit our [Testing and Results](#) page.

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. 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

Note: Call Centres are closed on Monday, August 3 for the civic holiday.

- **For health-related questions**, including symptoms, close contacts or travel:
 - Call 519-822-2715 ext. 7006
 - Available Monday – Friday 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.wdgphealth.ca

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

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