

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #46

Date issued: August 20, 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](#)
- 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](#)

Guidance Documents and Directives

- **New:** Ministry of Education's [Before and After School Programs: Kindergarten-Grade 6](#) (August 20)
- **Updated:** Ministry of Education's [Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak: Child Care Re-Opening](#) (Version 3)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Guidance for Mobile Food Vendors](#) (August 18)

Safe Reopening of Schools

On August 18, Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health, met with senior leaders from local school boards to continue planning for the safe reopening of schools. In the meeting, she advocated for the mandating of masks for students from Grade 1 and above and strongly recommended them for children in JK and SK.

The UGDSB has now made masks mandatory for all students, including those in Kindergarten to Grade 3. WDG Public Health's utmost priority is the safety of our children and teachers, and Dr. Mercer strongly endorses this mandate. Her full statement is available on our [website](#).

For parents, there are great resources on children and mask use available from the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

Please visit our website's new [For Schools](#) section for information on preparing children for returning to school and a parent's role in keeping schools safe.

Orders Extended Under Reopening Ontario Act, 2020

The [Government of Ontario](#) is extending orders currently in force under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 (ROA)*. All [orders under the ROA](#) have been extended to **September 22, 2020**, with the following exceptions:

- The [Education Sector](#) order will end on August 31, 2020.
- The [Limitation Periods](#) order will end, and suspended time periods will resume running on September 14, 2020.

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On August 19, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced an evaluation of provincial agencies' service delivery that will build on the advancements in digital service delivery made during the pandemic.
- On August 19, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced an investment of \$149,200 from the Ontario Together Fund in MetricAid's physician scheduling solution to help physicians link their availability and expertise with needed hospitals and clinics, while reducing administrative burden.
- On August 18, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that it is providing \$3.8 million to support hearing checks for infants who did not receive the universal newborn hearing screen due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Additional Resources

- [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Optimizing the Supply of Personal Protective Equipment During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Ongoing COVID-19 Action



NEW Contact for 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 Anna Vanderlaan via email at anna.vanderlaan@wdgppublichealth.ca

COVID Alert App

The [Government of Ontario](#) is encouraging Ontarians to download [COVID Alert](#) on their smartphones. The free, nation-wide app notifies users of potential exposure to COVID-19. Users who test positive for COVID-19 will receive a one-time key from their health authority that they can enter in the app. When the key is entered, COVID Alert will notify other users who may

have come in close contact with that person for at least 15 minutes in the past 14 days so they can contact their local public health authority for guidance.

The app uses strong measures to protect data and does not track a user's location or collect personally identifiable information. The Privacy Commissioners of Canada and Ontario were consulted on the development of COVID Alert to ensure the highest level of privacy for users.

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 the [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](#).



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 – 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.wdgpublichealth.ca

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

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