

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #56

Date issued: September 24, 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](#)

New and Updated Guidance Documents

- **New:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update](#) (September 24)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [Guidance for Places of Worship](#) (September 23)
- **New:** PHAC's [Interim guidance: Death Care Services and Handling of Dead Bodies During the Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#) (September 23)

Additional Resources

- **New:** PHAC's [Evidence to support safe return to clinical practice by oral health professionals in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic: A report prepared for the Office of the Chief Dental Officer of Canada](#) (September 16)

Ontario Expands COVID-19 Testing to Pharmacies

The [Government of Ontario](#) announced that COVID-19 testing at Ontario pharmacies will be available starting Friday, September 25. Up to 60 pharmacies will begin offering testing by appointment only, with further locations coming online in the coming weeks. This initiative will expand testing capacity beyond the province's 150 assessment centres. To find the closest pharmacy or assessment centre, please visit Ontario.ca/covidtest.

Ontario Updates COVID-19 Testing Guidelines

The [Government of Ontario](#) has announced that effective immediately, Ontarians should only seek testing at [assessment centres](#) if they are:

- Showing COVID-19 symptoms;
- Have been exposed to a confirmed case of the virus, as informed by your public health unit or exposure notification through the COVID Alert app;
- A resident or work in a setting that has a COVID-19 outbreak, as identified and informed by your local public health unit; and
- Eligible for testing as part of a targeted testing initiative directed by the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

Guidance Documents and Resources for Schools

The [school section](#) on the WDGPH website will continue to be updated with resources as they become available and are developed. Please be sure to bookmark the page, rather than save documents, to ensure you have the most up-to-date versions. Minor revisions are made as needed.

Find answers to the following frequently asked questions in the [Symptoms, Cases, and Return to Schools](#) section of the schools webpage:

- What happens if a student/staff has COVID-19 symptoms?
- What actions are taken and when a student/staff can return to school if they've had COVID-19 symptoms?
- What happens if a student/staff tests positive for COVID-19

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On September 23, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is launching a recruitment campaign to increase its team of frontline health and safety inspectors by 98 and help ensure workplaces across the province are doing their part to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- On September 22, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is implementing the largest flu immunization campaign in Ontario's history as part of the province's comprehensive plan to prepare the health system for a second wave of COVID-19.
- On September 22, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that it is signing agreements with a number of leading pharmaceutical companies to establish a guaranteed supply base of potential vaccine candidates.

Ongoing COVID-19 Action

Face Coverings Required at Additional Establishments in WDG

Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health, has included additional establishments within the Section 22 Order on mandatory face coverings. The expanded Section 22 Order came into effect on September 18, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.

In addition to WDG commercial establishments, the following fall under this order:

- Banquet halls, convention centres and other event spaces
- Galleries
- Museums
- Private transportation (bus/taxi/limo/ride share)
- Churches, mosques, synagogues, temples or other faith settings

The full media release is posted on our [website](#). 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](#).



COVID-19 Cases in Schools and Licensed Child Care Centres

The Government of Ontario has launched a [webpage to report COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres](#) for parents and the public. This page will be updated every weekday with the most up-to-date COVID-19 information available, including a summary of cases in schools and licensed child care centres and agencies.

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@wdgpublichealth.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.

COVID-19 Assessment Centres in the WDG area are walk-in only and do not book appointments.

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.

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.

Please note our COVID-19 call centre is experiencing higher than normal call volumes. COVID-19 test results may take 4-10 days. Please keep checking the online portal.

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