

## COVID-19 Information Bulletin #58

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**Date issued:** October 1, 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](http://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 Amended Guidance Documents

- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Child Care Guidance](#) (September 30)
- **Updated:** PHAC's [Risk Mitigation Tool for Gatherings and Events Operating During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (September 29)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Guidance for Reopening Businesses](#) (September 29)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Checklist for Reopening Businesses and Workplaces](#) (September 29)

### Additional Resources

- **New:** PHAC's [For Travellers Without Symptoms Returning to Canada](#) (October 1)
- **New:** PHAC's [For Travellers With Symptoms Returning to Canada](#) (October 1)
- **New:** PHAC's [For Persons Exempt from Mandatory Quarantine](#) (October 1)

### COVID-19 Fall Preparedness Plan

The [Government of Ontario](#) has developed a \$2.8 billion COVID-19 fall preparedness plan to ensure the province's health care, long-term care and education systems are prepared for the immediate challenges of the fall, including a second wave of COVID-19 and the upcoming flu season. [Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19](#) will enable the province to quickly identify, prevent and respond to surges and waves of the virus to protect the health and safety of all Ontarians. The plan focuses on six key areas:

- Maintaining strong public health measures including expansion of testing and case and contact management
- Implementing the largest flu immunization campaign in Ontario's history
- Quickly identifying, managing and preventing COVID-19 outbreaks
- Accelerating efforts to reduce health service backlogs
- Preparing for surges in COVID-19 cases
- Recruiting, retaining, training and supporting healthcare workers

## Ontario Revises Screening Guidance for Schools and Daycares

The [Government of Ontario](#) is updating its COVID-19 school and child care screening guidance. This additional information will help parents determine when it is most appropriate for students, children and their families to seek a test for COVID-19. The school and child care screening guidance is being updated with two sets of questions about symptoms and information to help parents make informed decisions about whether their children should attend school or child care, need to consult a health care provider, or get tested for COVID-19. The guidance can be found immediately at the [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care](#), and the refreshed online tool will launch on Friday, October 2 for download.

## 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.

Updated Resource from the Public Health Agency of Canada:

- [COVID-19 Guidance for Schools Kindergarten to Grade 12](#) (September 30)

## Announcements and Changes to Services

- On October 1, 2020, [the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced that people in Manitoba can now receive one-time keys from their health authorities to use with COVID Alert, Canada's COVID-19 exposure notification app.
- On September 30, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is unveiling plans to build a more responsive, efficient and person-centred social assistance system that will get people back to work and help the economy recover from the COVID-19 crisis.
- On September 30, the [Government of Ontario](#) released updated [COVID-19 modelling](#), which shows the province is experiencing a second surge in cases similar to what other jurisdictions have experienced.
- On September 29, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing close to \$540 million to protect residents, caregivers, and staff in long-term care homes from future surges and waves of COVID-19 as well as making changes to its long-term care homes visitor policy in areas of highest community spread.
- On September 29, [the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced an additional \$400 million in international development funding that will go to trusted partners on the ground

fighting COVID-19, and will enable Canada to support the recovery and resilience of developing countries.

- On September 29, [Transport Canada](#) announced implementation of temperature screening for travellers at 11 additional Canadian airports.
- On September 29, the [Government of Canada](#) signed an agreement with Abbott Rapid Diagnostics ULC to purchase up to 7.9 million ID NOW rapid point-of-care tests, pending Health Canada authorization of the tests.

## **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](mailto: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 and can take up to 4-10 days to be available online.**

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](http://www.wdgpublichealth.ca)

Ontario Ministry of Health: [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus)

Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus)