

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #59

Date issued: October 6, 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 Amended Guidance Documents

- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Child Care Guidance](#) (October 5)
- **Updated:** Chief Medical Officer of Health's [Directive #5 for Hospitals and Long-term Care Homes](#) (October 5)
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) (October 1)
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Paramedic Services](#) (October 1)

Screening Tools for Child Care

For Government of Ontario screening tools for schools and child care, please see the "Guidance Documents and Resources for Schools" section. WDGPH screening tools for child care are provided below:

- [COVID-19 Active Screening Tool for CHILDREN](#) (October 6)
- [COVID-19 Active Screening Tool for STAFF and ESSENTIAL VISITORS](#) (October 6)

Additional Resources

- **New:** PHAC's [Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces](#) (October 5)

COVID-19 Testing at Assessment Centres

Starting October 6, COVID-19 testing at Assessment Centres is by appointment only. Hours and booking details vary by location:

- [Guelph COVID-19 Assessment Centre](#)
- [Headwaters COVID-19 Assessment Centre](#) (Orangeville)
- [Rural Wellington COVID-19 Assessment Centre](#) (Fergus and Harriston)

Planning for Influenza in Congregate Settings

Public Health Ontario is hosting a [webinar](#) on October 8 for congregate living settings such as shelters, group homes, retirement homes and long-term care homes. The webinar will provide an overview of the features of influenza, including how these compare to COVID-19. General measures for infection prevention and control will be reviewed, along with influenza vaccines, antiviral use in treatment and prevention during outbreaks, and testing for respiratory viruses. **Please note: This webinar is sold-out, but you can email events@oahpp.ca to be put on the waiting list. A recording of the webinar will be posted to the website after the event.**

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.

Check out our new school-related [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

The Government of Ontario has updated the screening tool for schools and child care. Please update your bookmarks:

- [Screening Tool for Schools and Child Care](#) (October 1)
- [Screening Tool for Schools and Child Care: printable](#) (October 1)

Please note that WDGPH is currently updating school resources and process maps to reflect these updates.

The Ministry of Health has updated the following guidance document for schools:

- [COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management](#) (October 1)

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On October 5, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it has updated its visitor policy for long-term care homes in areas where there is higher community spread of COVID-19. A complete list of homes affected has been posted [online](#).
- On October 5, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced the allocation of \$35 million to provide additional immediate school board supports in the communities of Peel, Ottawa, Toronto and York Region to enhance public health measures and protection strategies due to higher rates of transmission in their communities.

- On October 5, the [Government of Canada](#) confirmed that people in Quebec can now receive one-time keys from their health authorities to use with COVID Alert, Canada's COVID-19 exposure notification app.
- On October 5, the [Government of Canada](#) announced three new benefits in response to COVID-19: the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB), and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB).
- On October 2, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that it is tightening public health measures and taking action to reduce testing turnaround times while prioritizing those who are at the greatest risk. Under the amended order [O. Reg 364/20](#) (rules for areas in Stage 3 under the [Reopening Ontario Act, 2020](#)), these new restrictions include mandating the use of face coverings in all public indoor settings across Ontario.
- On October 2, the [Government of Ontario](#) released two child care reports: [Strengthening Early Years and Child Care in Ontario](#) and the [Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2020](#).
- On October 2, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that in addition to the border restrictions that remain in place, the Government of Canada is further strengthening the public health presence at the border and enhancing quarantine monitoring.
- On October 2, [Health Canada](#) announced it has received its first submission for authorization of a COVID-19 vaccine developed by AstraZeneca in partnership with the University of Oxford.
- On October 1, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing \$461 million to temporarily enhance wages for personal support workers (PSWs) and direct support workers in the home and community care, long-term care, public hospitals, and social services sectors.
- On October 1, [the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced \$10 billion in new major infrastructure initiatives to create jobs and economic growth in response to the pandemic.

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.

Refer to [O. Reg 364/20](#) (rules for areas in Stage 3) for details on the province-wide mandated use of face coverings in all public indoor settings.



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 check your local [assessment centre](#) for details on booking an appointment. 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.

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

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

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