

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #7

Date issued: April 7, 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

- On April 2, [WDGPH confirmed](#) the first COVID-19 related death in Guelph.
- [WDGPH's COVID-19 Interactive Status Report](#) on cases of COVID-19 in WDG has the **most up-to-date information**. For important notes about the data, visit [our website](#).
- [Retirement and Long-Term Care Outbreak Bulletin](#) provides an up-to-date list of current outbreaks at WDG area retirement and long-term care homes.
- Additional COVID-19 data sources updated daily:
 - [Status of cases in Ontario](#)
 - [Number of COVID-19 cases in Canada](#)

Update: COVID-19 Assessment Clinics

- The Guelph COVID-19 Assessment Clinic, formerly located at 65 Delhi Street, is now located at the Victoria Road Recreation Centre at 151 Victoria Road North in Guelph. The [new location](#) will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, 7 days per week.
- The Headwaters COVID-19 Assessment Clinic has new hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, 7 days per week.

COVID-19 Test Results

- Ontario has launched a new online portal for the public to easily access their COVID-19 test results. At this time, not all lab results are available on the portal, only Public Health Ontario (PHO) data is available. To log in, patients need to use details found on their Ontario-issued health card, name, date of birth and postal code.

New: Community Contacts and Websites

- Our website has a [new page](#) featuring important community contacts and websites. Examples include non-emergency reporting, [price gouging reporting](#), [Guelph Coronavirus Community Response](#) and more.

Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) Coverage During COVID-19

- As of March 19, 2020, the three-month waiting period for OHIP coverage has been temporarily waived. For individuals who do not meet the criteria for OHIP coverage and are uninsured, the province will fund the cost of COVID-19 health services. If an individual's health card is currently expired or expiring soon, they do not need to renew to access COVID-19 health services. [Learn more about OHIP.](#)

Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan

- The [Government of Canada](#) is taking action to help individuals, businesses and industries facing hardship as a result of COVID-19.
- The [Canadian Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#) provides temporary income support for up to 16 weeks for eligible workers. The application process started April 6.

National COVID-19 Volunteer Recruitment Campaign

- The Government of Canada is [seeking volunteers](#) to help with: case tracking and contract tracing, case data collection and reporting and health system surge capacity. Visit the [recruitment page](#) to apply.

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On April 7, the [Government of Ontario launched](#) a new online [Health Workforce Matching Portal](#) to match available healthcare workers with employers.
- On April 6, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) a new Emergency Order that will allow first responders (police, firefighters and paramedics) to obtain COVID-19 positive status information about individuals they are coming into contact with, allowing first responders to take appropriate safety precautions.
- On April 6, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) the new Support for Families initiative offers a one-time payment of \$200 per child 0 to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those 0 to 21 years of age with special needs to support parents while Ontario schools and child care centres remain closed.
- On April 4, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) provision of relief funding to support organizations that provide residential services for children and youth, people with developmental disabilities and emergency shelters for women and families fleeing domestic violence.
- On April 4, the [Government of Ontario launched](#) a [new web portal](#) to connect workers with employers looking to fill positions in the agri-food sector.
- On April 3, the [Government of Canada announced](#) \$100 million through Canada's Local Food Infrastructure Fund for national, regional and local organizations that are able to support individuals experiencing food insecurity. Organizations include, but are not limited to, Food Banks Canada, Salvation Army, Second Harvest, Community Food Centres Canada, and Breakfast Club of Canada.

- On April 3, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) a temporary Emergency Order that will help retirement homes address emergency staffing needs and amended the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010* requiring that all retirement homes follow the Chief Medical Officer of Health's guidance and recommendations regarding infection control and prevention. \$20 million in additional funding will be provided to support increased infection control and active screening measures.
- On April 3, the [Government of Ontario released](#) COVID-19 modelling stating the projected number of cases and deaths can be significantly reduced if people stay at home and practice physical distancing. For more information, review Ontario's COVID-19 modeling [technical briefing](#).
- On April 3, the [Government of Ontario reduced](#) the [list of businesses classified as essential](#) and ordered more workplaces to close.
- On April 3, the [Government of Ontario issued](#) a new emergency order providing public health units the authority to make staffing decisions that support their COVID-19 response, effective immediately.
- On April 2, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) emergency funding of up to \$12 million to immediately expand online and virtual mental health supports and \$2.6 million to hire new psychologists and other mental health workers to support Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) personnel.

Additional Resources

- PHAC Physical Distancing [poster](#)
- PHO Physical Distancing [factsheet](#)
- Information for essential service workers exempt from mandatory self-isolation [factsheet](#)
- Tips for reducing COVID-19 risks for people who use substances [poster](#)
- PHO Take Care of Yourself and Each Other [factsheet](#)
- [Letter](#) to faith community leaders from Canada's Chief Public Health Officer
- WHO Parenting during COVID-19 [tipsheet](#)

Contact Information for Additional Support

WDGPH COVID-19 Call Centre 519-822-2715 ext. 7006

- Available: Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- For inquiries about public gatherings, workplace concerns and protecting yourself from COVID-19: **Dial ext. 4020** open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Reliable information sources:

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health webpage: www.wdgppublichealth.ca

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

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