

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #9

Date issued: April 14, 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

- [WDGPH's COVID-19 Status Report](#) is embedded into our website to make it more mobile and user friendly. For more important notes about the data, [visit our website](#).
- Information about institutional outbreaks can be found in the [Retirement and Long-Term Care Outbreak Bulletin](#).

Updated Hours: Headwaters COVID-19 Assessment Centre

- The Headwaters Assessment Centre hours have changed to 9:00 am – 5:00 pm daily, 7 days per week.

Ontario Extends Declaration of Emergency

- As of April 14, the [Government of Ontario extended all emergency orders](#) issued to date under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* until **May 12, 2020**.
- A full list of the emergency orders can be found on the [e-Laws website](#).
- New measures have also been added to:
 - Temporarily enable hospitals to increase their capacity by using the beds and services of retirement homes without certain labour relation implications.
 - Make it easier to repurpose existing buildings and put up temporary structures, like tents, so communities can meet their local needs quickly.
 - Prohibit recreational camping on Crown land. Under the emergency order issued April 9 2020, no individual can camp on Crown land, including the placement of tents or other camping structures.
 - Support construction workers and businesses with emergency action to help improve cash flow in the construction industry. This will lift the suspension of limitation periods and procedural time periods under the Construction Act and allow the release of holdback payments to contractors and subcontractors.

Enhanced COVID-19 Testing Strategy

- On April 10, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) expanded COVID-19 testing for several priority groups, including:
 - Hospital inpatients;
 - Residents of long-term care and retirement homes;
 - Health care workers, caregivers, care providers, paramedics, and first responders, including police and firefighters;
 - Remote, isolated, rural and Indigenous communities;
 - Other congregate living centres, including homeless shelters, prisons and group homes;
 - Specific vulnerable populations, including patients undergoing chemotherapy or hemodialysis and requiring transplants, as well as pregnant persons, newborns and cross-border workers; and
 - Other essential workers, as defined by provincial orders.
- The province is also updating the list of symptoms related to COVID-19, including a hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing, loss of sense of smell or taste, diarrhea or nausea/vomiting. For seniors, there are additional symptoms including chills, delirium with no other obvious reason, falls, acute functional decline, increased heart rate and decreased blood pressure. These updated symptoms are in addition to difficulty breathing, fever, cough, muscle aches, fatigue, headache, sore throat and runny nose.

New Long-Term Care Guidelines

- Public Health Agency of Canada released [interim guidance](#) for infection prevention and control of COVID-19 for long-term care homes.
- The guidance complements [guidance](#) released from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On April 12, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) the province is developing a new health data platform called the Pandemic Threat Response (PANTHR). This new platform will hold secure health data that will allow researchers to better support health system planning and responsiveness, including the immediate need to analyze the current COVID-19 outbreak.
- On April 10, the [Government of Ontario issued](#) an emergency order that immediately prevents any childcare operator from charging fees or collecting payments from parents where care is not being provided. The order also means that parents cannot lose their childcare space because they are not paying fees during this period.
- On April 9, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) a partnership with [SPARK Ontario](#), a volunteer hub to direct volunteers where they are needed most to support seniors and people with disabilities.

COVID-19 Case Management Support

- WDGPH is currently recruiting for COVID-19 case management support. Visit [our website](#) to learn more and apply by April 22, 2020.

Additional Resources

- New: WDGPH frequently asked questions about COVID-19 and food [document](#)
- PHAC physical distancing [video](#)
- PHO's [COVID-19 "What We Know So Far About..." documents](#) provide a brief overview of some of the published and unpublished reports related to emerging issues with respect to the COVID-19.
- PHO's [Synopsis of Key Articles](#) webpage.
- PHO's [Daily Scan of Selected Public Health Organizations](#)
- WDGPH To Stay Well Stay Home [poster](#)

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 website: www.wdgppublichealth.ca

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

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