

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #133

Date issued: October 7, 2021

Purpose of bulletin: To keep local stakeholders informed about COVID-19 and its implications for Wellington County, Dufferin County and the City of Guelph (WDG).

All editions of this bulletin are posted on [our website](#). Bulletins are published on Thursdays, every other week.

Surveillance

- Information about [cases in WDG](#) can be found on our website.
- Information about [vaccination progress in WDG](#) can be found on our website
- Information about institutional outbreaks can be found in the [Retirement and Long-Term Care Outbreak Bulletin](#)

New and Amended Ministry Guidance and Screening Tools

- [COVID-19 Guidance: Workplace Outbreaks](#) (October 5)
- [COVID-19 Worker and Employee Screening Tool](#) (updated October 1)
- [COVID-19 Customer Screening Tool](#) (updated October 1)
- [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#) (updated October 1) **Please note that the following statement has been added to this tool:** Anyone who is sick or has any symptoms of illness, including those not listed in this screening tool, should stay home and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed.

COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance and Resources

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#) (October 7)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations](#) (September 29)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet](#) (September 29)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Youth \(Age 12-17\)](#) (September 29)
- [What You Need to Know About Viral Vector Vaccines](#) (September 29)

School Resources

- [High Risk Contact Letter for Students](#) (September 30)
- [High Risk Contact Letter for Staff](#) - (September 30)
- [High Risk Contact and Household Decision Tree](#) (September 30)
- [Guidance for High-Risk Contacts of a Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Case](#) (September 29)

Child Care Resources

- [High Risk Contact & Household Decision Tree](#) (September 30)
- [Memo - PD Day Programming](#) (September 30)
- [High Risk Contact Letter for Children](#) (September 30)
- [High Risk Contact Letter for Staff](#) (September 30)

Resources for Congregate Living Settings

- [Planning for Respiratory Virus Outbreaks in Congregate Living Settings](#) (September 2021)
- [COVID-19: Personal Protective Equipment and Non-Medical Masks in Congregate Living Settings](#) (revised September 2021)

Provincial School Rapid Antigen Testing Program

The Government of Ontario has announced that rapid COVID-19 antigen tests will be made available for targeted testing of children in schools and registered childcare settings. WDG Public Health will participate in this program. While the program is still in development, the preliminary details are available on our website at: <https://wdgpublichealth.ca/news/media-release-wdg-public-health-will-participate-provincial-school-rapid-antigen-testing>. For more information visit the [provincial media release](#).

Further Protection for Long-Term Care Residents and Staff

Ontario is taking further action to protect long-term care residents and staff. COVID-19 vaccinations will become mandatory for all in-home staff, support workers, students, and volunteers by November 15, 2021, unless they have a valid medical exemption. Inspections of homes are being expanded and provincial resources redirected to enhance and audit existing testing in homes. For more information read the [Minister's Directive: Long-term care home COVID-19 immunization policy](#) or the [provincial media release](#).

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On October 6, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it will provide up to \$270 million this year to long-term care homes to increase staffing levels by 4,050 new long-term care staff across the province, leading to more direct care for residents.
- On October 6, [the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced details of the plans to require COVID-19 vaccination across the federal public service and federally regulated transportation sectors.
- On October 5, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is providing more than \$46 million to support 648 non-profit tourism, culture, sport and recreation organizations experiencing significant financial pressures due to COVID-19.

- On September 29, [Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health](#) announced that Ontario has issued a preferential recommendation of the use of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for individuals aged 18-24 years old effective immediately based on the current available analysis from Ontario's adverse events following immunization (AEFI) surveillance system.

Additional Resources

- [Restaurant and Food Services Health and Safety During COVID-19](#) (updated October 6)
- [How to Make your Mask Fit Properly](#) (September 29)
- [How to Choose, Use and Care for a Non-Medical Mask](#) (September 29)
- [Plan a Safe Holiday or Celebration](#) (updated September 22)
- [Safety Advice for Private Indoor Gatherings](#) (updated September 22)

Contact Information for Additional Support

Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre

Services are offered in 300 languages and include accessible services. For questions about COVID-19 vaccine, (not related to appointments or clinics) vaccine receipts, and vaccine passports:

- Call 1-833-943-3900
- Available 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

WDGPH COVID-19 Call Centre

For health-related questions, and questions or concerns from the community beyond COVID-19:

- Call 519-822-2715 ext. 7006
- Available Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Closed on Monday, October 11)

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. (Closed on Monday, October 11)

COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments

[Book a vaccination appointment online](#) or drop-in to a clinic. Upcoming vaccine drop-ins are posted on our website at: <https://wdgpublichealth.ca/drop-ins>

COVID-19 Testing

Information about [local testing centres](#) is available on our website. Once you are tested you can access your results [online](#). For more information visit [how to get your COVID-19 test results](#).



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

Ontario Emergency Information: www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information