

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #138

Date issued: December 16, 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. **The next edition of this bulletin will be published January 6, 2022.**

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 Guidance

- Ministry of Health's [Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing](#) (December 16)
- Ministry of Education's [COVID-19: Health and Safety Measures at Schools](#) (December 15)
- WDG Public Health's [Child Care Provider Guidance](#) (December 6)

Screening Tools and Resources

- [School and Child Care Screening Tool](#) (December 15)
Updates include addition of question about whether a household member has tested positive on a rapid antigen test and the addition of considering the effects of a flu vaccine to the symptoms list for the staff (adult) screener.
- [Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes](#) (December 9)
- COVID-19 Screening Tool Videos for the Hearing Impaired (December 3)
 - [Introduction](#)
 - [Screening Question 1](#)
 - [Screening Question 2](#)
 - [Results](#)

New School and Child Care Resources

- [School and Bus Case Information Letter](#) - Letter for distribution to entire school/school bus population (and/or posted on school website) whenever there's a school case.

- [COVID-19 School Staff Exposure Self Risk Assessment Tool](#) – A self-risk assessment tool to determine high vs low risk exposure for school staff who may have had close contact with a student/staff who tested positive for COVID-19.
- [COVID-19 Case and High-Risk Contact \(HRC\) Letter](#) – Universal letter outlining all COVID-19 guidance used for positive cases and high-risk contacts.
- [Guidance Flow Chart for Isolation Requirements](#) – Flow chart resource outlining guidance on isolation and testing requirements for positive cases, high risk contacts, and household members.

Instructions from the Medical Officer of Health to Employers

Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health has issued a [letter of instruction to persons responsible for a business or organization](#) requiring remote work for workers where reasonably possible effective Monday, December 20 until further notice. Please see the full [Letter of Instruction](#) for detailed definitions and instructions.

An [open letter from Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health](#) was issued to employers prior to this letter of instruction emphasizing the importance of the measures employers are responsible for along with other important measures to reduce COVID-19 risks in the workplace. Please note that some of the recommendations in the Open Letter have become requirements under the Letter of Instruction.

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses

This week the [provincial government announced](#) that individuals aged 50 and over are eligible to schedule their booster dose appointments three months (84 days) after their second dose. Please note that this interval of time after the second dose was reduced.

Starting Monday, December 20, 2021, individuals aged 18 and over will be eligible to schedule their booster dose appointment three months (84 days) after a second dose. Details about booster doses in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph are available at: wdgpublichealth.ca/booster-dose.

Capacity Limits in Certain Venues

Effective December 18, Ontario intends to apply a 50 per cent capacity limit to certain indoor areas of venues with a usual capacity of 1,000 or more such as sports and entertainment facilities. For more information read the [provincial media release](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance and Resources

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#) (December 14)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet \(age 12+\)](#) (December 14)
- [What You Need to Know About Your COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment](#) (December 13)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #39](#) (December 9)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations](#) (December 2)

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Documents in Other Languages](#)

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On December 16, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced the launch of a holiday testing blitz to offer rapid antigen tests to individuals free of charge at pop-up sites across the province.
- On December 10, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced further proof of vaccination requirements.
- On December 10, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing \$8.9 million to further protect residents and staff in congregate care settings from COVID-19.
- On December 10, [WDG Public Health](#) confirmed the first local case of COVID-19 Omicron variant.
- On December 7, the [Government of Canada](#) announced it will require employees in all federally regulated workplaces to be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- On December 7, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is extending its Worker Income Protection Benefit program, which provides paid sick days, until July 31, 2022.
- On December 7, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is extending its pause on the lifting of capacity limits in remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required.
- On December 3, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that it has signed agreements with Merck and Pfizer for access to their COVID-19 oral antiviral treatments.

Additional Resources

- [How to Choose, Use and Care for a Mask](#) (December 16)
- [How to Make Your Mask Fit Properly](#) (December 16)
- [Interim IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19](#) (December 15)
- [At Home: Using Ventilation and Filtration to Reduce the Risk of Aerosol Transmission of COVID-19](#) (December 15)
- [COVID-19 Variant of Concern Omicron \(B.1.1.529\): Risk Assessment, December 7, 2021](#) (Published December 10)
- [COVID-19: Advice for Gatherings, Events and Celebrations](#) (December 9)
- [Ventilation Helps Protect Against the Spread of COVID-19](#) (December 3)

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. – 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 a.m. – 4 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 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For COVID-19 vaccine appointment booking help: (**Please note that appointments can be booked online at: wdgpublichealth.ca/appointments**)

- Call 1-844-780-0202
- Available Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Note: Call Centre hours may be affected by a holiday. Visit our website for holiday hours.

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