

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #139

Date issued: January 6, 2022

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 Directives

- [COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge](#) (January 1)
- [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#) (January 4)
- [Directive #2: for Health Care Providers \(Regulated Health Professionals or Persons who Operate a Group Practice of Regulated Health Professionals\)](#) (January 5)
- [Directive #5 for Hospitals within the meaning of the Public Hospitals Act and Long – Term Care Homes within the meaning of the Long – Term Care Homes Act, 2007](#) (December 20)
- [Directive #5: Questions and Answers](#) (December 31)
- [Directive #4 for Ambulance Services and Paramedics under the Ambulance Act](#) (December 24)
- [COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario](#) (December 21)
- [Directive #1 for Health Care Providers and Health Care Entities](#) (December 21)
- [Directive #1: Questions and Answers](#) (December 31)
- [Directive #3 for Long – Term Care Homes under the Long – Term Care Homes Act, 2007](#) (December 20)
- [Retirement Homes Policy to Implement Directive #3](#) (December 27)
- [Minister's Directive: COVID-19: Long-Term Care Home Surveillance Testing and Access to Homes](#) (December 16)

Screening Tools for Employers and Businesses

- [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Workers](#) (currently updating)

- [COVID-19 Customer Screening](#) (currently updating)

School and Child Care Screening Tools and Resources

- [School and Child Care Screening Tool](#) (currently updating)
- [Student Screening \(PDF\)](#) (January 6)
- [Employee and Visitor Screening \(PDF\)](#) (January 6)

Any person, including school staff or students, who are experiencing symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have been identified as a high-risk contact should refer to [Instructions for Positive Cases and High-Risk Contacts](#).

Ontario Moves to Modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen

The province returned to a modified version of Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen effective Wednesday, January 5 for at least 21 days (until January 26, 2022), subject to trends in public health and health system indicators. View [O. Reg. 263/20](#) for the complete list of measures and conditions that apply to certain businesses, organizations, places and individuals. For more information read the [provincial media release](#) and for an overview of current measures, please see the [provincial public health measures overview](#).

Instructions for Positive Cases, High-Risk Contacts and Anyone with Symptoms

The province recently updated its [COVID-19 testing and isolation guidelines](#). Individuals who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been identified as a high-risk contact after being exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 can refer to [Instructions for Positive Cases and High-Risk Contacts](#) for more information.

Drop-in COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics Open to More Groups

The following groups can drop-in for a COVID-19 vaccine, no appointment needed: children ages 5-11 (1st or 2nd dose), and booster doses for adults age 68+, school staff, teachers and bus drivers, child care educators and staff including unlicensed child care providers. A list of open clinic dates, times and locations is available at wdgpublichealth.ca/drop-ins.

Measures at Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes

In response to the evolving Omicron situation, the following [temporary measures at long-term care homes](#) went into effect on Thursday, December 30, 2021:

- Access to long-term care homes by general visitors is paused. Designated caregivers may continue to enter long-term care homes.
- Day absences for all residents for social purposes is paused.

The province is also making fourth doses of mRNA vaccines available to residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges and other congregate care settings if at least

three months, or 84 days, have passed since the third dose. For more information read the [provincial media release](#).

Medical Exemption for COVID-19 Vaccination

Visit the [Ontario Ministry of Health Guidance on Medical Exemptions to COVID-19 Vaccination](#) for the list of reasons that may qualify for a medical exemption to COVID-19 vaccination. As of January 10, 2022, a written medical exemption will no longer be accepted to access businesses and organizations that require proof of vaccination. You will be required to show your enhanced vaccination certificate with official QR code. For instructions to obtain your QR code, visit <https://wdgpublichealth.ca/medical-exemption-covid-19-vaccination>.

COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance and Resources

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidance](#) (January 5)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations](#) (December 31)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Consent Form](#) (December 31)
- [Medical Exemptions to COVID-19 Vaccination](#) (December 31)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#) (December 17)

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On January 6, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is accelerating boosters for education and child care staff.
- On December 22, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is extending its call to arms to businesses, volunteers and retired health professionals to help further boost capacity and get more boosters into arms sooner.
- On December 22, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is introducing new supports for many of the businesses that are most impacted by public health measures due to COVID-19.
- On December 21, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is enhancing infection prevention and control measures and helping recruit and retain new staff for retirement homes.
- On December 17, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is expanding specialized COVID-19 vaccine supports for indigenous communities.
- On December 17, the [Government of Canada](#) reinstated the requirement for a pre-arrival negative PCR test result for all travelers leaving the country for less than 72 hours.

Additional Resources

- [Fully Vaccinated Travellers Entering Canada During COVID-19](#) (December 30)
- [How to Self-monitor](#) (updated December 26)
- [How to Self-isolate](#) (updated December 26)
- [COVID-19 Variant of Concern Omicron \(B.1.1.529\): Risk Assessment, December 21, 2021](#) (updated December 24)

- [Optimizing the Use of Masks Against COVID-19](#) (December 24)
- [Update with Consideration of Omicron: Interim COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in the Health Care Setting when COVID-19 is Suspected or Confirmed, December 23, 2021](#)
- [Unvaccinated Travellers Entering Canada During COVID-19](#) (December 23)
- [COVID-19: Going Out Safely](#) (December 20)
- [Information for Patients: A Guide to Self-Testing for COVID-19](#) (December 17)
- [Interim IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19](#) (updated December 15)

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.](#) Information about vaccine drop-ins and eligibility is available on our website at: <https://wdgpublichealth.ca/drop-ins>

COVID-19 Testing

[COVID-19 test eligibility and testing location information](#) is available online. **Eligibility criteria was recently updated.** If you have been tested and need to access your results 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