

## COVID-19 Information Bulletin #140

---

**Date issued:** January 20, 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 13)
- [COVID-19 Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge Management of Critical Staffing Shortages in Highest Risk Settings](#) (January 12)
- [COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Schools and Child Care: Omicron Surge](#) (January 10)
- [Directive #2.1: for Hospitals Within the Meaning of the Public Hospitals Act, Private Hospitals Within the Meaning of the Private Hospitals Act, Psychiatric Facilities Within the Meaning of the Mental Health Act and Regulated Health Professionals Who Practice Within Them \(Health System Coordination re: Hospital Patient Transfers\)](#) (January 14)
- [Directive #2: Questions and Answers](#) (January 6)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario](#) (January 10)
- [Retirement Homes Policy to Implement Directive #3](#) (January 7, effective January 10)

### Screening Tools

- [School and Child Care Screening Tool](#)
- [Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes](#) (January 11)

### Guidance for Congregate Settings

- [COVID-19 Guidance for MCCSS-funded and Licensed Congregate Living Settings](#) (January 14)
- [Addendum to COVID-19 Guidance for MCCSS-funded and Licensed Congregate Living Settings](#) (January 14)

## Guidance for COVID-19 Exposure or Symptoms

- [What to Do if You've Been Exposed to COVID-19](#)
- [Flow Chart: You Have Symptoms and Are Concerned You May Have COVID-19. Now What?](#)
- [Flow Chart: You've Been Identified as a Close Contact of Someone Who Has Tested Positive for COVID-19 or Someone With COVID-19 Symptoms. Now What?](#)

## Ontario Outlines Steps to Ease Public Health Measures

Effective January 31, 2022 at 12:01 a.m. Ontario will begin the process of gradually easing public health measures, including but not limited to:

- Increasing social gathering limits to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.
- Increasing or maintaining capacity limits at 50 per cent in certain indoor public settings.

Enhanced proof of vaccination, and other requirements will continue to apply in existing settings. Additional measures will be eased on February 21 and March 14, subject to the absence of concerning trends in public health and health care indicators. For more information read the [provincial media release](#).

## Booster Doses

All adults age 18+ can now drop-in for a booster dose, no appointment needed. Find a list of drop-in clinics and other people who can drop-in with no appointment at: [wdgpublichealth.ca/drop-ins](http://wdgpublichealth.ca/drop-ins).

## COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance and Resources

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet for Children \(age 5-11\)](#) (January 18)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#) (January 13)
- [Medical Exemptions to COVID-19 Vaccination](#) (January 12)
- [After Your COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (January 11)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service](#) ([sickkids.ca](http://sickkids.ca))

## Resources for Travellers

- [COVID-19: Fully Vaccinated Travellers and Children Less Than 12 Years Old Arriving from a Country Other Than the U.S. or Canada](#) (January 15)
- [COVID-19: For Travellers Over 12 Without Symptoms Who are Medically Exempt from Receiving a Vaccination](#) (January 15)
- [COVID-19: Requirements for Fully Vaccinated Travellers and Unvaccinated Children Less Than 12 Years of Age](#) (January 15)
- [For Unvaccinated Travellers Without Symptoms of COVID-19 Arriving in Canada by Land, Air or Water](#) (January 15)

- [For Travellers With COVID-19 Symptoms Arriving in Canada by Land, Air or Water](#) (January 15)

## Announcements and Changes to Services

- On January 17, [Health Canada](#) announced it has authorized the combination of two antiviral drugs, nirmatrelvir and ritonavir (brand name PAXLOVID™), to treat adults with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk of progressing to serious disease.
- On January 17, the [Government of Canada](#) announced it has received an initial shipment of Pfizer's COVID-19 oral antiviral treatment, PAXLOVID™, with more expected to be delivered before the end of March.
- On January 14, [Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health](#) issued a letter to the community regarding the return to in-person learning.
- On January 12, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that the repayment deadline for Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loans to qualify for partial loan forgiveness is being extended from December 31, 2022, to December 31, 2023, for all eligible borrowers in good standing.
- On January 12, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced the launch of school-based vaccine clinics for youth and staff, along with a significant deployment of rapid antigen tests.
- On January 8, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced additional vaccine clinics to COVID-19 booster shots for education and child care staff.
- On January 7, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is introducing a \$10,000 grant for eligible businesses that are subject to closures under the modified [Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen](#).

## Additional Resources

- [COVID-19 Omicron Variant of Concern \(B.1.1.529\) and Communicability...What We Know So Far](#) (updated January 17)
- [Construction Site Health and Safety During COVID-19](#) (January 17)
- [COVID-19 Variant of Concern Omicron \(B.1.1.529\): Risk Assessment, January 12, 2022](#) (updated January 15)
- [Neighbourhood COVID-19 Incidence and Vaccination Rates, October 17, 2021 to December 4, 2021](#) (published January 14)
- [Frequently Asked Questions on Interim IPAC Recommendations for Use of PPE in Health Care Settings](#) (January 11)
- [Early Estimates of Omicron Severity in Ontario based on a Matched Cohort Study, November 22 to December 24, 2021](#) (updated January 5)

## 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](https://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

Confirm you are [eligible for COVID-19 testing](#). If so, please visit [COVID-19 test and testing location information](#) for a list of testing locations. 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](http://www.wdgpublichealth.ca)

Ontario Ministry of Health: [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus)

Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus)

Ontario Emergency Information: [www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information](http://www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information)