

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #142

Date issued: February 17, 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 Guidance, Directives and Regulations

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#) (February 17)
- [Guidance for Acute Care](#) (February 16)
- [Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#) (February 14)
- [Ontario Regulation 364/20](#) (February 14)
- [COVID-19 Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge Management of Critical Staffing Shortages in Highest Risk Settings](#) (February 11)
- [COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge](#) (February 4)
- [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 \(Health System Coordination re: Hospital Patient Transfers\)](#) (February 10)
- [Directive #2: Questions and Answers](#) (February 11)

Long-Term Care and Retirement Home Guidance and Directives

- [Retirement Homes Policy to Implement Directive #3](#) (February 17, effective February 22)
- [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes](#) (February 16)
- [COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario](#) (February 10)
- [COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units](#) (February 3)

School and Child Care Screening Tools and Guidance

- [COVID-19: Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools 2021-2022](#) (February 10)
- [Covid-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#) (February 7)
- [Ministry of Education: Before and After School Programs - Kindergarten – Grade 6](#) (updated February 4)
- [Flow Chart: You Have Symptoms and Are Concerned You May Have COVID-19. Now What?](#) (updated February 3)
- [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?](#) (updated February 3)
- [COVID-19: Operational Guidance for Child Care](#) (February 7)
- [COVID-19: Operational Guidance for EarlyON Child and Family Centres](#) (February 7)

Screening Tools and Guidance for Businesses and Workplaces

- [Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations under the Reopening Ontario Act](#) (February 7)
- [Ontario's COVID-19 Worker and Employee Screening Questions](#) (February 4)
- [Ontario's COVID-19 Patron Screening Questions](#) (February 4)

Resources for Travellers

- [Fully Vaccinated Travellers Entering Canada During COVID-19](#) (February 3)
- [Unvaccinated Travellers Entering Canada During COVID-19](#) (February 3)

Ontario Moves to Next Phase of Reopening

Effective today, February 17, Ontario has eased further public health measures including but not limited to:

- Increasing social gathering limits to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.
- Increasing organized public event limits to 50 people indoors, with no limit outdoors.
- Removing capacity limits in the certain indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required.

Capacity limits in other indoor public settings, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, retail and shopping malls, will be maintained at, or increased to, the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance. Further public health measures will be lifted on March 1, 2022 if public health and health system indicators continue to improve. For more information refer to [O.Reg. 364/20](#) or read the [provincial media release](#).

Booster Dose Eligibility Expanding to Youth 12-17

On Friday, February 18, 2022, Ontario is expanding booster dose eligibility to youth aged 12 to 17. Appointments can be booked online at wdgpublichealth.ca/appointments a minimum of 168

days (6 months) following the second dose. Alternatively, you can [drop-in to a clinic](#) or contact a [participating pharmacy](#) or your primary care provider.

Visiting Restrictions at Long-Term Care Homes

Effective February 7, the maximum number of designated caregivers per resident increased from two to four. In addition, residents with at least three doses of COVID-19 vaccine were able to resume social day trips.

Effective February 21, general visitors five years and older who have had at least two doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be able to resume visits to long-term care residents. The number of visitors at a time, per resident will also increase from two to three, including caregivers. In addition, all residents, regardless of vaccination status, will be able to resume social day trips, and residents who have had at least three vaccine doses will be able to enjoy overnight social absences. For more information visit the [provincial media release](#).

Why Do I Need a Booster?

Have questions about booster doses? Read the latest [Stay Well WDG Blog](#). We will answer some of your questions about booster doses and breakdown why now is the best time to get your COVID-19 booster vaccine.

Free Rapid Testing Kits for At-Home Use

On February 9, participating grocery and pharmacy locations began providing free rapid tests to the general public, with a limit of one box of five tests per household per visit. A list of participating retailers as well as information on how retail locations are distributing rapid test kits can be found at [Ontario.ca/rapidtest](#). Lead agencies working as part of the [High Priority Communities Strategy](#) will also be distributing rapid tests through existing local partnerships, such as community centres, community health centres, places of worship, and food banks. For more information read the [provincial media release](#).

Status of Cases in WDG: Dashboard Update

Wastewater surveillance data has been added as a new tab on the [cases dashboard](#). Wastewater data is another surveillance tool for understanding what is happening in our community with COVID-19. Analysis of wastewater can reveal trends of community transmission which are not impacted by changes to testing criteria.

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On February 17, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced record funding for the 2022-23 school year. The funding will support learning recovery and mental health supports for students to enable them to return to a more normal school year next year.
- On February 17, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is continuing to ensure the province is prepared in the fight against COVID-19 and its variants by ramping up

procurement and delivery of additional services, personal protective equipment and critical supplies and equipment.

- On February 17, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing in more than 250 local initiatives to help Ontario’s seniors stay safe, healthy and active in their communities after several months of isolation due to the pandemic.
- On February 15, the [Government of Canada](#) announced a series of adjustments to the current border measures, representing the beginning of a phased easing of travel restrictions.
- On February 9, the [Government of Canada](#) announced its intention to extend enhanced key support programs to ensure Canadians are protected and workers and businesses continue to get help through ongoing public health restrictions.
- On February 8, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is helping vulnerable Ontarians get safe and reliable access to COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots by extending the Accessible Drive to Vaccines program to March 31, 2022.

Additional Resources

- [Information Package for Congregate Settings Experiencing Increased Illness](#) (February 2022)
- [COVID-19 Variant of Concern Omicron \(B.1.1.529\): Risk Assessment, February 9, 2022](#) (updated February 16)
- [Mask Use for the Workplace \(Non-Healthcare Settings\)](#) (February 15)
- [Reducing COVID-19 Risk in Community Settings: A Tool for Operators](#) (February 10)
- [Optimizing the Use of Masks Against COVID-19](#) (February 9)
- [Pregnancy, Childbirth and Caring for a Newborn During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (February 4)
- [Mask Wearing in Children and COVID-19 – What We Know So Far](#) (February 4)
- [Adjusting Public Health Measures in the Context of COVID-19 Vaccination](#) (February 2)

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, booking or rescheduling a vaccination appointment, and questions or concerns beyond COVID-19:

- Call 519-822-2715 ext. 7006

- Available Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Closed Friday, February 18 and Monday, February 21.)

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. (Closed Friday, February 18 and Monday, February 21.)

Public Health offices will be closed to the public on Friday, February 18 and Monday, February 21. Essential services including vaccination clinics and case management will be available on Friday, February 18. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, February 22.

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

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