

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #69

Date issued: November 10, 2020

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).

Due to the evolving nature of the situation, further updates may be forthcoming.

For more information visit www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca.

Surveillance

- Information about cases in WDG can be found on [our website](#)
- Information about institutional outbreaks can be found in the [Retirement and Long-Term Care Outbreak Bulletin](#)
- Information about local assessment centres and testing criteria is available on [our website](#)

New and Amended Guidance

- Ministry of Education's [Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak: Child Care Re-Opening](#) (November 2)
- WDGPH's [COVID-19 Guidance for HCPs Testing and Isolation](#) (November 4)

Guidance Documents and Resources for Schools

The [school section](#) on the WDGPH website will continue to be updated with resources as they become available and are developed. Please be sure to bookmark the page, rather than save documents, to ensure you have the most up-to-date versions. Minor revisions are made as needed. Check out the school-related [frequently asked questions](#).

The following provincial documents have been updated on the school section of the website:

- [Ministry of Education: Before and After School Programs - Kindergarten – Grade 6](#)
- [Operational Guidance: COVID-19 Management in Schools](#)

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On November 9, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is taking immediate action to enhance the local public health response to COVID-19 in Peel Region by expanding access to testing as well as increasing case and contact management and hospital capacity.

- On November 9, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing \$5 million to help offset revenue losses for eligible agricultural and horticultural societies impacted by the necessary cancellation of fall fairs and exhibits during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On November 9, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is seeking individuals - specifically those who are unemployed or have been displaced from the retail and hospitality industries or administrative roles as well as students in education programs - to re-enter the workforce and make a difference by helping seniors living in long-term care homes.
- On November 6, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced its intention to move Ontario's public health unit regions to the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#).
- On November 5, [Finance Minister Rod Phillips](#) released [Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover](#) the next phase of a comprehensive action plan to respond to the serious health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Regulation 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3](#) (Amended November 6)
- [Mask Use for Non-Healthcare Workers](#) (November 5)
- [What You Need to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccine for Canada](#) (November 3)

Ongoing COVID-19 Action

Face Coverings

On October 2 ([see News Release](#)), the Ontario government announced that when you go out anywhere in Ontario, you must use a face covering (non-medical mask, such as a cloth mask) in public indoor spaces and whenever physical distancing is a challenge. This includes [public spaces, workplaces and vehicles that operate as part of a business or organization](#), with some exceptions.

As the season begins to change and people start to spend more time indoors, an additional recommendation from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is for individuals to consider the use of face coverings that are made of three layers, including a filter layer. The addition of a filter layer improves the level of protection that can be provided by non-medical face coverings. This is not to say that there is currently any reason to throw away non-medical face coverings that are made of two layers. These face coverings remain effective if they fit closely against the face covering the nose, mouth, and chin, and are changed or laundered frequently. However, as individuals look towards purchasing or making new non-medical face coverings, it is recommended to use the updated guidance from PHAC and choose those with three-layers of protection where possible.

For more information and instructions on how to make your own three-layer face covering, visit the [Public Health Agency of Canada website](#).

Visit our [website](#) for frequently asked questions on face coverings and further information.

COVID-19 Cases in Schools and Licensed Child Care Centres

The Government of Ontario has launched a [webpage to report COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres](#) for parents and the public. This page will be updated every weekday with the most up-to-date COVID-19 information available, including a summary of cases in schools and licensed child care centres and agencies.

Physical Distancing Floor Decals

- WDG Public Health has physical distancing floor decals available for community partners to use at their locations.
- If you would like decals, please contact Anna Vanderlaan via email at anna.vanderlaan@wdgpublichealth.ca



COVID-19 Testing

Please check your local [assessment centre](#) for details on booking an appointment. Public Health **DOES NOT** provide testing. No referral is needed but you must meet the testing criteria. **Bring your health card to the assessment centre** (if you have one). It is OK if it is expired. Presenting your health card allows you to:

- Check your [test results online](#). Public Health only calls those who test positive.
- Be treated or prescribed medication for other respiratory conditions if needed and if this option is available at your assessment centre.
- Move through the testing process faster.

Further instruction will be provided by the clinician at the assessment centre based on individual assessment.

Individuals can also get tested for COVID-19 by booking an appointment at [select pharmacies](#) if they meet certain criteria. Check our [website](#) for details.

Safety Sector-Specific Guidance

Sector-specific guidelines and posters to help protect workers and the public from COVID-19 are available from the Government of Ontario. These [guidance documents](#) are being posted and updated as they become available, so check back regularly.

Contact Information for Additional Support

WDGPH COVID-19 Call Centre

- **For health-related questions**, including symptoms, close contacts or travel:
 - Call 519-822-2715 ext. 7006
 - Available Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:30.
 - **Open Wednesday, November 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 Wednesday, November 11**

Please note that WDG Public Health offices will be closed to the public to observe Remembrance Day Wednesday, November 11, reopening with regular hours on Thursday, November 12. All essential Public Health services will continue throughout Remembrance Day, including outbreak management and contact tracing for COVID-19.

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