

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #72

Date issued: November 19, 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).

Please note that all editions of this Bulletin are posted on [our website](#).

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 is available on [our website](#)

New and Amended Guidance

- WDGPH's [COVID-19 Guidance for Restaurants and Other Food Premises](#) (Updated November 18)

Virtual Event Tonight: Finding the Balance During COVID-19

Join Dr. Anne-Marie Zajdlik, family doctor and founder, ARCH Clinic Waterloo and Wellington, and Helen Fishburn, executive director of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Waterloo Wellington, as they talk with Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health about what we need to do NOW to flatten the curve and prepare for the holiday season. The free [event](#) takes place at 7:00 p.m.

Testing in WDG Long-Term Care Homes

The [Government of Ontario](#) is updating testing guidance in communities with greater transmission of COVID-19. Effective Monday, November 23, in long-term care homes in public health unit regions in the Orange-Restrict, Red-Control and Lockdown levels under the COVID-19 Response Framework:

- Staff, essential caregivers and support workers who provide direct care to residents need to be tested for COVID-19 weekly and show proof of a negative test result.
- Support workers who do not provide direct care to residents must verbally attest to having received a negative COVID-19 test result in the past two weeks and not subsequently tested positive.

Events and Gatherings

On November 17, Dr. Nicola Mercer, WDGPH's Medical Officer of Health and CEO, wrote a letter to the community advising people not to go into anyone else's home and not to have anyone in their home who does not already live there. If anyone does need to come into another person's home for essential reasons (i.e. supporting a loved one for mental or physical health reasons, essential support people or home repair/maintenance), everyone must wear masks, keep their distance and wash their hands. More details in [Dr. Mercer's Letter to the Community](#).

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On November 19, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing over \$2.2 million through the Ontario Together Fund to provide small businesses with free, tailored financial advice and online training to help them make informed financial decisions and navigate the unprecedented economic circumstances brought on by the pandemic.
- On November 18, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is providing \$2.4 million to support an additional 13 Ontario Health Teams across the province to provide better, connected care to patients.
- On November 18, the [Government of Canada](#) announced an independent panel will pursue the review of the Global Public Health Intelligence Network, an early warning system for potential public health threats worldwide.
- On November 17, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is now accepting applications from municipalities for local infrastructure projects under the new Local Government sub-stream of the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream to allow local governments to proceed with tendering and procurement as soon as possible.

Additional Resources

- [Summary of Government Financial Assistance for Ontario Farm Businesses](#) (November 18)
- [Isolating Residents in Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes During COVID-19 Outbreaks](#) (Updated November 4)

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 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 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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