

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #78

Date issued: December 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).

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

Current WDG Zone Level: [Restrict – Orange \(O. Reg 364/20\)](#)

Surveillance

- Information about cases in WDG can be found on [our website](#)
 - A feature has been added to [status of cases](#) to provide a comparison of COVID-19 cases by municipality. To view a case comparison map, click on 'Cases by Municipality'.
- 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

- MSAA's [Retirement Home COVID-19 Visiting Policy](#) (Updated December 9, effective December 11)

Ontario Extends COVID-19 Orders

The [Government of Ontario](#), is extending all orders currently in force under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 (ROA) until January 20, 2021. This extension will support the safe delivery of health care and other critical services until COVID-19 vaccines are approved and widely available. The list of orders under the ROA that have been extended can be found online on the [Government of Ontario's website](#).

WDG Recommends Move to “Red”

In meetings with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Medical Officer of Health and CEO Dr. Nicola Mercer has recommended that the region move to the “Red – Control” level of the provincial COVID-19 response framework. There has been a significant and troubling increase in cases over the past week along with increased hospitalizations prompting this recommendation. Read the full media release on our [website](#).

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On December 10, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that the COVID Alert App has been updated with two new features.
- On December 9, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is supporting jobs at local restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries and distilleries during the COVID-19 pandemic by expanding opportunities in alcohol sales, including making the sale of alcohol with food takeout and delivery orders permanent.
- On December 9, [Health Canada](#) authorized the first COVID-19 vaccine.
- On December 9, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that due to the pandemic, it is temporarily waiving multiple driver's licence renewal requirements so that all Class G and M drivers can now safely renew their licences online at [ServiceOntario.ca](#).
- On December 9, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that it is investing more than \$5 million through the Ontario Together Fund to help three companies create jobs by designing and producing respirators and surgical masks for frontline and healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On December 8, the [Government of Ontario](#) introduced the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act, 2020* that would, if passed, protect employers from an unexpected increase in Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) premiums, while maintaining an increase to the maximum earnings cap for worker benefits.

New and Updated Resources

- [School and Bus Case Information \(letter to parents\)](#) - Updated December 8
- [WDGPH Vaccine Bulletin #2 – Priority Populations](#) (December 10)
- [COVID-19 Health Product Industry: Information for Health Product Manufacturers and Distributors](#) (Updated December 8)
- [Vaccine Development and Approval in Canada](#) (December 8)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine: What You Should Know](#) (December 9)
- [People Who are at Risk of More Severe Disease or Outcomes from COVID-19](#) (December 8)

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