

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #82

Date issued: January 5, 2021

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: [Provincewide Shutdown – Grey](#), ([O. Reg. 82/20](#))

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

- Ministry of Health's [A Guide to Starting a Home-based Food Business](#) (December 24)
- Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Rapid Antigen Screening](#) (December 30)
- Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Vaccine-Relevant Information and Planning Resources](#) (December 23)
- Government of Ontario's [Child Care Centre Guidance](#) (December 24)
- PHAC's [COVID-19 Health Product Industry: Information for Health Product Manufacturers and Distributors](#) (December 23)
- WDGPH's [COVID-19 Guidance for Outdoor Activity](#) (December 23)
- WDGPH's [COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship](#) (December 23)

Interim Direction for Congregate Care Settings

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) recently released [Interim Direction for Congregate Care Settings](#) for the provincewide shutdown. This direction will be in effect from December 26, 2020 until January 23, 2021 for the WDG region. The new interim direction replaces previous guidelines and directions, which have been suspended:

- MCCSS Visitors Guidelines 2.0: Re-Opening Congregate Living Settings
- MCCSS Wave 2 Enhanced Precautions memos

- Operational Guideline on Universal Source Control

Congregate living settings should review the [Interim Direction](#) to understand current requirements for essential visits, short-stay absences and outings, essential overnight absences, personal protective equipment use amongst staff, and precautions for settings in an active outbreak. All MCCSS-funded congregate living settings must follow this new interim direction. Congregate living settings that are not funded by MCCSS are recommended to follow this guidance as best practices for COVID-19 precautions.

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On January 4, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is supporting home-based food businesses by providing a guide on how to start a home-based food business, which includes an overview of public health requirements that need to be followed as a food operator.
- On December 31, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that effective January 7, 2021, at 12:01 a.m. EST, all air passengers five years of age or older will be required to test negative for COVID-19 before travelling from another country to Canada.
- On December 30, the [Government of Ontario](#) released an [Ethical Framework](#) for COVID-19 vaccine distribution which was developed in partnership with the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force to guide further vaccine prioritization and distribution across the province.
- On December 27, the [Government of Ontario](#) provided an update on confirmed cases in Ontario of the COVID-19 variant first identified in the UK.
- On December 23, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that through funding provided by the federal government, Canadian Red Cross teams are providing short-term support to an additional 20 long-term care and retirement homes in Ontario.
- On December 23, [Health Canada](#) authorized the second COVID-19 vaccine in Canada, manufactured by Moderna.
- On December 23, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is providing nearly \$41 million to help 486 non-profit organizations across the province to rebuild and recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On December 22, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced all in-vehicle passenger tests across Northern Ontario until January 9 and for all 27 public health unit regions in Southern Ontario will be cancelled until January 23 to help stop the spread of COVID-19.
- On December 22, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is providing new financial supports for individuals, families and small businesses, as they do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the province's health care system during the Provincewide Shutdown.

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 Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 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.

Please do not call Public Health for your test 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