

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #11

Date issued: April 21, 2020

Purpose of bulletin: To keep local stakeholders informed of the quickly-evolving novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation 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

- [WDGPH's COVID-19 Status Report](#) is embedded into our website. For more important notes about the data, [visit our website](#).
- Information about institutional outbreaks can be found in our [Retirement and Long-Term Care Outbreak Bulletin](#).

New: COVID-19 Assessment Clinic Opens in Mount Forest

- The [Mount Forest COVID-19 Assessment Clinic opens](#) on Tuesday, April 21 at the Mount Forest Sportsplex located at 850 Princess Street, Mount Forest.
- The clinic is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (closed daily from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.).

COVID-19 IPAC Community of Practice (CoP)

- On **Thursday April 23**, Public Health Ontario is hosting an IPAC CoP for Group Homes, Residential Treatment Centres and Shelters.
- Please contact stacey.roberts@wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca for more information, including how to connect to the webinar.

COVID-19 Test Results – No News is Good News

- WDGPH will not call individuals who test negative for COVID-19 because we will no longer be receiving negative test results from the labs. [Use the ministry tool](#) to check your results online.
- WDGPH will continue to call individuals who receive a positive test result to provide further instructions.

Expanded COVID-19 Testing Guidance

- Based on the [most recent COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance](#), testing capacity and scope in our region is expanding to include residents and workers within congregate living settings and institutions, individuals in the same household as health care workers and first responders, essential workers, and other priority populations (including individuals with frequent contact with the health care system).
- For healthcare providers: Please visit WDGPH's [COVID-19 Information for Healthcare Providers webpage](#) regularly for updated testing and clearance guidelines.
- For the public: Please visit [WDGPH's assessment centre's page](#) for information about when to visit an assessment clinic

Accessing and Donating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Contact your corresponding WDGPH liaison for information about how to access and donate PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic in WDG.

Ministry of Health Guidance Documents

- On April 17, the Ministry released new COVID-19 Guidance for Community Based Mental Health and Addiction Service Providers in Residential Settings (shared alongside this bulletin).
- Please visit the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's [website](#) regularly for updated guidance documents.

Volunteer Opportunities in WDG

- Are you wanting to volunteer your skills and expertise to help during COVID-19? There are essential services that require additional help at this time.
- **For City of Guelph or Wellington County**, visit [PINnetwork.ca](#) to:
 - [Browse opportunities](#) using the NEW COVID-19 filter
 - [Create a profile](#) – select Emergency, Crisis & Distress and choose COVID-19. You will receive emails with matched opportunities.
 - Follow PIN Network on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) (@PINnetworkGW)
- **For Dufferin County**, visit [Volunteerdufferin.ca](#) to:
 - [Browse opportunities](#) using the COVID-19 filter. Check back often as this new feature rolls out and opportunities are added.
 - [Create a profile](#) and select COVID-19 in your Notification Preferences. You will receive emails with matched opportunities.
 - Follow Volunteer Dufferin on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

Physical Distancing Floor Decal

- WDGPH has physical distancing floor decals available for community partners to use at their locations.
- If you would like decals, please contact your corresponding WDGPH liaison.



Announcements and Changes to Services

- On April 20, the [Government of Ontario released](#) updated COVID-19 modelling that shows enhanced public health measures, such as staying home and physical distancing, are working to contain the spread of the virus and flatten the curve. The Chief Medical Officer of Health says emergency measures must remain in place to continue reducing the number of cases and deaths. Key highlights from the modelling update include:
 - The wave of new community spread cases of COVID-19 in Ontario appears to have peaked.
 - Outbreaks in long-term care and congregate settings continue to be a major concern. Concerted actions are underway to protect vulnerable people in these settings.
 - Ontario is now trending toward a best-case scenario rather than a worst-case scenario and has significantly improved its standing as compared to March modelling.
 - The province has avoided a significant surge in cases. Total cumulative cases are forecast to be substantially lower than worst-case or even moderate-case scenarios projected by previous models.
 - While several hundred new cases are identified daily in Ontario, hospitals across the province have not been overwhelmed by the COVID-19 outbreak as a result of capacity planning and the public health measures currently in place. The rate of growth day-over-day is declining.
 - To further reduce the number of cases and deaths, it remains critical that Ontarians continue to adhere to public health measures, including staying home and practicing physical distancing if they must go out for essential reasons only.
- On April 20, the [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety \(CCOHS\)](#) [launched](#) an online space, [Pandemic Info Share](#), to enable businesses and organizations to share their pandemic-related good practices and resources.
- On April 18, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) an investment of \$20 million to advance medical research to combat COVID-19 through the [COVID-19 Rapid Research Fund](#). Ontario researchers are encouraged to submit proposals through the new [Ontario Together](#) website.
- On April 18, [Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced](#) financial support for small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses and for Aboriginal Financial Institutions that offer financing to these businesses.
- On April 17, the [Minister of Transport announced](#) new measures requiring all air passengers to have a non-medical mask or face covering to cover their mouth and nose during travel, effective April 20, 2020. Travellers are also encouraged to wear non-

medical masks or face coverings whenever possible when travelling by marine modes of transportation, by rail or by carrier/buses.

- On April 17, [Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced](#) new actions to protect Canadian jobs and provide more support to businesses and organizations dealing with the economic impacts of COVID-19. Visit the [news release](#) for a list of targeted measures.
- On April 17, the [Government of Ontario expanded](#) the list of essential workers eligible to receive emergency childcare. Visit [the news release](#) for a full list of additional frontline workers who can now access emergency childcare services.
- On April 17, the [Government of Ontario issued](#) new temporary emergency orders to provide flexibility in staffing arrangements to protect vulnerable people. [New orders](#) include:
 - Restricting retirement home employees from working in more than one retirement home, long-term care home or health care setting, with compliance required by April 22, 2020;
 - Providing Local Health Integration Networks with the ability to direct home care service provider organizations to safely reassign frontline staff to areas where they are most needed, including home and community care settings, long-term care homes, supportive housing, retirement homes and hospitals;
 - Providing municipalities and District Social Service Administration Boards with the flexibility to offer reassignments to certain staff to where there is local need during the outbreak, including child care, by-law enforcement, and public health services.
- On April 16, [Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced](#) new measures to support small businesses such as expanding the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) and intent to introduce the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA).
- On April 16, the [Government of Ontario expanded](#) hospital capacity by enacting pandemic staffing plans and adding more acute care beds and critical care beds.
- On April 14, the [Government of Canada announced](#) an updated emergency order is being issued under which any traveller arriving in Canada—whether they are symptomatic or asymptomatic—cannot isolate or quarantine in a place where they would be in contact with people who are vulnerable, such as adults aged 65 years or over and people with pre-existing medical conditions.

Additional Resources

- New: PHO's universal mask use in healthcare [information sheet](#)
- PHO's when and how to wear a mask for the general public [information sheet](#)
- PHO's putting on and taking off PPE [poster](#)
- New: Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) [COVID-19 tip sheets](#) for high-risk and essential occupations/industries
- New: PHAC's COVID-19 stay home [video](#)
- PHAC's COVID-19 and food safety [information](#)
- COVID-19 [signage](#) for visitors
- COVID-19 [signage](#) for patients

- Updated: PHAC's preventing COVID-19 in the workplace [factsheet](#)
- Updated: PHAC's about COVID-19 [poster](#)
- New: PHO's COVID-19 how to care for pets and other animals [factsheet](#)
- PHO's Evolution of COVID-19 Case Growth in Ontario [Epidemiological Summary](#)
- Updated: PHO's COVID-19 what we know so far about symptoms [synopsis](#)
- [Government and local resources](#) for seniors
- CMHA's [HERE4HEALTHCARE resource](#) for front line workers including professional counselling and a 24/7 Crisis Line
- [Boots on the ground](#) peer support for first responders

Contact Information for Additional Support

Updated: WDGPH COVID-19 Call Centre

- **For health-related questions**, including symptoms, close contacts, travel or if you are a health care provider:
 - Call 519-822-2715 ext. 7006
 - Available Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and weekends from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- **For non-health related questions**, including business or workplace concerns, social distancing 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 website: www.wdgppublichealth.ca

Ontario Ministry of Health webpage: www.ontario.ca/coronavirus

Public Health Agency of Canada webpage: www.canada.ca/coronavirus