

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #10

Date issued: April 16, 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

- **Highlights:**
 - A downward trend of cases by onset date and cases by date reported can be seen from early to mid-April. It remains to be seen how much of this trend is due to reduced numbers of patients presenting for testing, as opposed to reflecting a true trend.
 - Two additional facility outbreaks have occurred.
 - Overall confirmed case fatality rate (percentage) in Canada has risen from 2.1% last week to 3.2% this week.
 - The number of fatalities in WDG due to COVID-19 has risen from one to 8 over the past week. All fatalities have occurred in persons aged 60 and older.
- [WDGPH's COVID-19 Status Report](#) is embedded into our website to make it more mobile and user friendly. 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](#).

Expanded COVID-19 Testing

- In line with provincial guidance, [WDGPH has expanded testing guidelines](#) to include testing all symptomatic community members experiencing fever OR new/worsening respiratory symptoms OR evidence of pneumonia.
- When there are shortages of testing supplies, vulnerable community members and essential workers should be prioritized for testing.

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 15, the [Government of Ontario announced](#) the [COVID-19 Action Plan for Long-Term Care Homes](#) and issued a new emergency order restricting long-term care staff from working in more than one long-term care home, retirement home or health care setting.
- On April 15, the [Government of Canada announced](#) expanded access to the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) by changing the eligibility rules.
- On April 14, the [University of Guelph announced](#) it will be providing temporary housing, starting this week, for health-care workers and emergency responders looking to live apart from their families while caring for patients or providing other services.

Latest Research

Transmission

[Lan et al.](#) extracted locally acquired confirmed COVID-19 cases from governmental investigation reports in several Asian countries, following the data of each country/area for 40 days after its first locally transmitted case. They found that the five occupation groups with the most cases were healthcare workers, drivers and transport workers, services and sales workers, cleaning and domestic workers and public safety workers.

Testing

[Xiao et al.](#) studied the characteristics of nucleic acid conversion for SARS-CoV-2 from 70 COVID-19 patients, finding that 15 (21.4%) patients experienced a “turn positive” of nucleic acid detection by RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 after two consecutive negative results. The authors conclude that the increasingly numerous reports of patients testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 after apparent recovery from previous infection may be related to the false negative rate of the RT-PCR test and prolonged nucleic acid conversion.

Interventions

[Ansumali et al.](#) discuss how the data after many weeks of strict measures suggest that instead of experiencing a conventional peak in the number of new infections, most areas instead enter a phase where the infections are in a linear growth. *“The daily new infection rate of a region seems to depend heavily on the time point in the exponential evolution when the restrictive measures were adopted, rather than on the population of the region. It is not easy to [identify] the critical source of these persistent infections.”*

Additional Resources

- PHAC [information](#) about non-medical masks and face coverings
- [Recommendations](#) for preventing COVID-19 in taxi and ride support vehicles
- Wellness Together Canada [portal](#) for mental health and substance use support
- WDGPH [Guidance for Mobile Food Vendors](#)
- PHAC [Information sheet](#) for travellers without symptoms returning to Canada
- PHAC [Tips](#) for working from home when you have children



Contact Information for Additional Support

WDGPH COVID-19 Call Centre 519-822-2715 ext. 7006

- Available: Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- For inquiries about public gatherings, workplace concerns and protecting yourself from COVID-19: **Dial ext. 4020** open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Reliable information sources:

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health website: www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca

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

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