

## COVID-19 Information Bulletin #43

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**Date issued:** August 11, 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](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca).

### 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 criteria is available on [our website](#)

### New and Amended Guidance Documents and Directives

- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Guide to Reopening Ontario's Schools](#) (August 10)
- **Updated:** PHAC's [COVID-19 Guidance for Schools Kindergarten to Grade 12](#) (August 7)
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance](#) (August 6)
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#) (August 6)
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [Appendix 8: Cases with Positive COVID-19 Serology Results and Management of Cases with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children \(MIS-C\) Temporally Associated with COVID-19](#) (August 6)
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Case Definition](#) (August 6)

### Announcements and Changes to Services

- On August 10, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that Windsor-Essex will be allowed to move into Stage 3 on August 12.
- On August 10, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that effective August 9, 2020 a minimum unemployment rate of 13.1% will be applied temporarily for all EI economic regions across Canada due to COVID-19.
- On August 7, the [Government of Ontario](#) celebrated the opening of the new Groves Memorial Community Hospital in Wellington county.
- On August 6, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that it is investing \$1.5 million through the new Tourism Economic Development Recovery Fund and offering

promotional incentives at provincial attractions to help the province's tourism industry after the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Employers of Foreign Temporary Workers

A dedicated section for [employers of foreign temporary workers](#) has been added to the WDGPH website. This page includes guidance documents, screening tools, signs and posters in multiple languages as well as links to financial assistance.

## Masks with Exhalation Valves or Vents

Public Health is recommending that any customer, patron, employee or visitor of a commercial establishment in the WDG region should NOT wear masks with exhalation valves or vents to help prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading COVID-19 to others. Face coverings that provide a barrier that limits the transmission of infectious respiratory droplets should be worn. Visit our [website](#) for more information on face coverings.

## Additional Resources

- PHAC's [Going out safely during COVID-19](#)
- PHAC's [Understanding COVID-19 testing](#)

## Ongoing COVID-19 Action

### COVID Alert App

The [Government of Ontario](#) is encouraging Ontarians to download [COVID Alert](#) on their smartphones. The free, nation-wide app notifies users of potential exposure to COVID-19. Users who test positive for COVID-19 will receive a one-time key from their health authority that they can enter in the app. When the key is entered, COVID Alert will notify other users who may have come in close contact with that person for at least 15 minutes in the past 14 days so they can contact their local public health authority for guidance.

The app uses strong measures to protect data and does not track a user's location or collect personally identifiable information. The Privacy Commissioners of Canada and Ontario were consulted on the development of COVID Alert to ensure the highest level of privacy for users.

### COVID-19 Testing

Please go to an [Assessment Centre](#) to get tested. Public Health **DOES NOT** provide testing. No referral is needed. **Bring your health card to the assessment centre** (if you have one). It is OK if it is expired. Presenting your health card allows you to:

- Check your test results online. Public Health only calls those who test positive.
- Be treated or prescribed medication for other respiratory conditions if needed and if this option is available at your assessment centre.
- Move through the testing process faster.

Further instruction will be provided by the clinician at the assessment centre based on individual assessment. Be prepared for increased wait times at the assessment centres.

## Check Your COVID-19 Test Results Online

The Ontario government has launched an online [COVID-19 Test Result Viewer](#). This offers fast and secure access to test results on your computer or mobile device. **NOTE: Online test results are only available to those with an Ontario photo (green) health card.**

If you receive a positive result via the online COVID-19 Test Result Viewer, you will have the option to report your information to Public Health through Contact +. Contact + is a voluntary, web-based service for positive results received via the COVID-19 Test Result Viewer. **It does not replace the call you get from Public Health.** Contact + allows you to confirm your contact details as well as review and answer the questions that Public Health will ask you, in advance of your call. You may add this information for up to 48 hours after your positive test result is reported. For more information about Contact + visit the [testing and results](#) page.

## Face Coverings Required for Commercial Businesses in WDG

Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health, has issued an order under Section 22 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

What this means:

- A face covering is required for any customer, patron, employee or visitor when entering and while on the premises of any commercial establishment in the WDG region. The order will be in effect until rescinded.

For more details on the order and frequently asked questions, [visit our website](#) or contact our call centre at 519-822-2715 ext. 4020.

Individuals who may be exempted from this Order:

- Children under the age of two years.
- Children under the age of five years (either chronologically or developmentally) who refuse to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver.
- People whose ability to breathe is in any way inhibited by the face covering.
- People that have any other medical reason they cannot wear a face covering safely, such as, but not limited to, respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties or difficulties in hearing or processing information.

Learn more about the [wear and care of face coverings](#).



## Health and Safety Sector-Specific Guidance

Sector-specific guidelines and posters to help protect workers and the public from COVID-19 are available from the Government of Ontario. These [guidance documents](#) are being posted and updated as they become available, so check back regularly.



## Physical Distancing Floor Decals

- WDG Public Health has physical distancing floor decals available for community partners to use at their locations.
- If you would like decals, please contact Meghan Wiles via email at [meghan.wiles@wdgppublichealth.ca](mailto:meghan.wiles@wdgppublichealth.ca)

## 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.
- **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.wdgppublichealth.ca](http://www.wdgppublichealth.ca)

Ontario Ministry of Health: [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus)

Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus)