

## COVID-19 Information Bulletin #48

---

**Date issued:** August 27, 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](#)

### Guidance Documents and Resources

- **New:** WDGPH [Mask Guidance for Parents Handout](#) (August 26)
- **New:** WDGPH [COVID-19 and Children Handout](#) (August 26)
- **New:** WDGPH [COVID-19 Guidance: Checklist for Cleaning and Disinfection in Congregate Settings](#) (August 26)
- **New:** Government of Ontario [Operational Guidance: COVID-19 Management in Schools](#) (August 26)
- **New:** Ministry of Health [COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management](#) (Version 1 – August 26)
- **New:** WDGPH [COVID-19 Checklist for Food Catering](#) (August 25)
- **New:** Physical and Health Education (PHE) Canada [COVID-19 Pandemic: Return to School Canadian Physical and Health Education Guidelines](#)
- **New:** True Sport [Safe Return to Community Sport: A True Sport Guide for Parents and Caregivers](#)
- **Updated:** WDGPH [COVID-19 Guidance for Restaurants and Other Food Premises](#) (August 26)
- **Updated:** WDGPH [COVID-19 Checklist for Special Events and Gatherings](#) (August 25)
- **Updated:** WDGPH [Guidance for Public Washrooms](#) (August 25)
- **Updated:** WDGPH [COVID-19 Checklist for Mobile Food Vendors](#) (August 18)

## New 'For Schools' section on our website

There is a new [For Schools](#) section on our website. Resources are being added regularly as we prepare for back-to-school, so check back often.

- [Parents and Students](#)
- [Teachers and Staff](#)
- [Post-Secondary Education](#)

## New Mount Forest Assessment Centre Location

COVID-19 Assessment Centre services will end at the Mount Forest Sportsplex on Friday, August 28 and begin at Legacy Groves (235 Union Street East, Fergus, N1M 1W3) on Monday, August 31. Current hours of operation will continue (Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 6pm).

## Announcements and Changes to Services

- On August 27, the [Governments of Canada and Ontario](#) announced that they are providing more than \$5.4 million through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to help food processing businesses improve food safety, increase labour productivity and enable better access to markets. These strategic investments will support more than 75 projects across Ontario and strengthen the province's crucial agri-food supply chain.
- On August 26, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that its back-to-school plan, developed in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and public health officials, is being further enhanced by additional federal investments and resources to support the return to class in the fall. Today's federal announcement provides \$381 million to Ontario, on top of the nearly \$900 million provided by the province to support provincial back-to-school plans.
- On August 26, the [Government of Ontario](#) named Dr. Dirk Huyer as Coordinator, Provincial Outbreak Response. In this role, he will lead the province's efforts to prevent and minimize COVID-19 outbreaks in a number of sectors, including the education, child care, agriculture, and health care sectors. Dr. Huyer will have a small secretariat to help achieve Ontario's goals of outbreak management and work with all ministries to help to provide a coordinated response to outbreaks across the province.
- On August 26, the [Government of Ontario](#) released the *Operational Guidance: COVID-19 Management in Schools* document. This guide was developed in consultation with public health experts, including Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, and aims to help schools identify and isolate COVID-19 cases, reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools, and prevent and minimize outbreaks. An [electronic press kit](#), including video and photo files, is now available to download.
- On August 26, the [Government of Canada](#) announced \$112 million to support a safe return to elementary and secondary schools on reserves. The investment will provide funding to meet the needs of schools and students, including, for example, for salaries for teachers, custodians and bus drivers (who may work additional hours during this period), access to technology, purchase of e-learning software, and the development of take-home learning materials.

## Ongoing COVID-19 Action

### NEW Contact for 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 Anna Vanderlaan via email at [anna.vanderlaan@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:anna.vanderlaan@wdgpublichealth.ca)



### 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.

## 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.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.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)