

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #50

Date issued: September 3, 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

- 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](#)

Holiday Hours for Public Health and Local Assessment Centres

On Monday, September 7, all WDG Public Health offices and call centres will be closed for Labour Day.

Guelph and Headwaters (Orangeville) COVID-19 assessment centres will maintain regular hours. The Rural Wellington COVID-19 Assessment Centre, located in Fergus, will be closed.

New and Updated Guidance Documents

- **New:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Checklist for Personal Service Settings in Long Term Care and Retirement Homes](#) (September 2)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [Child Care Provider Guidance](#) (September 1)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Child Care Centre Self-Auditing Checklist](#) (September 1)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Guidance for Public Washrooms](#) (September 2)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Guidance Checklist for Theatres and Concerts](#) (September 2)

Guidance Documents and Resources for Schools

The [school section](#) on the WDGPH website has been updated with the following resources. Please be sure to bookmark the page, rather than save documents, to ensure you have the most up-to-date versions. Minor revisions are made as needed.

SCREENING FOR SYMPTOMS

- COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children
- COVID-19 Daily Screening Tool for Secondary School Students
- COVID-19 Daily Screening Tool for School-Based Staff

SYMPTOMS, CASES AND RETURN TO SCHOOL

- Guidance for a COVID-19 Positive Case Among Student/Staff
- Guidance for Symptomatic Staff/Student at School
- Guidance for Return to School

SAMPLE LETTERS (referenced in the above process maps, if required)

- School Case Information
- Symptomatic Student Information

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On September 3, the [Government of Canada](#) announced over 1,000 new projects delivered by community organizations across the country to support seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On September 3, the [National Research Council of Canada](#) announced that Tronosjet Manufacturing Inc. is receiving advisory services and up to \$95,000 in research and development funding for the development of 3D-printed nasal testing swabs which will be used in testing kits to detect COVID-19.
- On September 3, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced that the COVID-19 exposure app is now available for use in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- On September 2, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that it is expanding driver testing services across the province with strict protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 beginning September 8.
- On September 2, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced visitor policy updates for long-term care homes to help operators implement consistent visiting practices across the province.
- On September 2, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that it is partnering with public transit operators across the province to implement measures that will ensure transit workers and passengers can safely and confidently take public transit during the pandemic.

Ongoing COVID-19 Action

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



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.

***Please note that the Rural Wellington COVID-19 Assessment Centre (Fergus) will be closed on Monday, September 7.**

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.
- *Please note that the call centre (including HCP line) will be closed on Monday, September 7.**

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