

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #53

Date issued: September 15, 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](#)

New and Updated Guidance Documents

- **Updated:** [Directive #3 for Long – Term Care Homes under the Long – Term Care Homes Act, 2007](#) (September 9)
- **New:** Ministry of Education’s [Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak: EarlyOn Reopening](#) (August 2020)

Face Coverings Required at Additional Establishments in WDG

Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health, has announced that she is including additional establishments within the Section 22 Order on mandatory face coverings. The expanded Section 22 Order will come into effect on September 18, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.

In addition to WDG commercial establishments, the following fall under this order:

- Banquet halls, convention centres and other event spaces
- Galleries
- Museums
- Private transportation (bus/taxi/limo/ride share)
- Churches, mosques, synagogues, temples or other faith settings

The full media release is posted on our [website](#). 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](#).



Guidance Documents and Resources for Schools

The [school section](#) on the WDGPH website will continue to be updated with resources as they become available and are developed. 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.

Recently added resources for [teachers and staff](#):

- PPE Recommendations in Schools
- Reopening Schools During COVID-19 (Presentation slides with notes)

Recently added resources for [parents and students](#):

- Infection Prevention and Control Tips for Children Attending School

Additional Resources:

- Ontario [COVID-19 School Screening](#) Online Tool

COVID-19 Cases in Schools and Licensed Child Care Centres

The Government of Ontario has launched a [webpage to report COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres](#) for parents and the public. This page will be updated every weekday with the most up-to-date COVID-19 information available, including a summary of cases in schools and licensed child care centres and agencies.

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On September 14, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing \$175 million this year to address critical upgrades, repairs and maintenance in 129 hospitals across the province, including \$50 million for COVID-19 related and other urgent projects.
- On September 11, [Infrastructure Canada](#) launched an open call to non-governmental not-for-profit organizations who will work directly with municipalities, local governments, Indigenous communities and not-for-profit community partners to identify and fund local projects through the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative. The Initiative is providing up to \$31 million over the next two years to support community-led projects that respond to immediate and ongoing needs arising from COVID-19.
- On September 11, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that Project Learning Tree Canada's Green Jobs Initiative will receive nearly \$7.8 million under the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS). This will provide green job opportunities to 1,200 youth across Canada who face barriers to employment, including Indigenous youth, newcomers and youth from rural or remote communities.
- On September 11, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that Transport Canada, provincial and territorial governments, public health authorities, and Canada's largest air carriers have established a consistent approach for air carriers to collect and share passenger information necessary to alert Canadians of possible COVID-19 exposure while travelling by air, in compliance with applicable privacy legislation.
- On September 10, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is providing an additional \$14.75 million to increase access to mental health and addictions services across the province during these unprecedented times.
- On September 10, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that the governments of Canada and Ontario are investing more than \$7.9 million through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to help farmers meet challenges related to the COVID-19 outbreak and bring more safe, high-quality foods to markets.
- On September 10, the [Government of Canada](#) announced new funding of \$2.5 million over two years for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS), so it can continue to provide valuable COVID-19 related guidance to Canadian workers and businesses.

Ongoing COVID-19 Action

IPAC Training

Public Health Ontario (PHO) has released a series of infection prevention and control (IPAC) educational resources for long term care (LTC) and retirement homes (RH) designed to strengthen IPAC practices.

The [COVID-19 IPAC Fundamentals Training](#) is available on PHO's website. The training is tailored to four specific audiences:

- Clinical staff (e.g., registered nurses, registered practical nurses, personal support workers, physicians, therapists and social workers)
- Non-clinical staff (e.g., environmental cleaning, dietary, maintenance, and administrative staff)

- Family/visitors and other caregivers (e.g., volunteers, faith leaders)
- Inspectors (e.g., public health inspectors, LTC and RH inspectors)

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.

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.

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

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

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