

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #54

Date issued: September 17, 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

- **New:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship](#) (September 16)
- **Updated:** Government of Ontario's [Safety Plan Guidance](#) (September 16)

Additional Resources

- **New:** PHAC's [People who are at High Risk for Severe Illness from COVID-19](#) (September 15)

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:

- [Ministry of Health COVID-19 School Screening](#)
- [Water Filling Station Poster](#)

The following documents have been updated under [Symptoms, Cases and Return to School](#):

- Guidance for a COVID-19 Positive Case Among Student/Staff (Updated: September 16)

- Guidance for Symptomatic Staff/Student at School (Updated: September 16)
- Guidance for Return to School (Updated: September 16)

WDGPH Call Centre Volume and Test Results

The following [Public Advisory](#) has been added to our website.

Please note our COVID-19 call centre is experiencing higher than normal call volumes. We are working to answer messages by the next business day.

Test results can take 4-10 days. Please keep checking the online portal.

We are unable to assist with test results for anyone who lives outside of the WDG area, even if you were tested within our area. You must contact your local public health unit.

Please visit our COVID-19 information pages, as your question may be answered there.

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On September 16, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced the launch of a voluntary screening tool to assist parents, students and staff with the daily assessment of COVID-19 symptoms and risk factors before attending school.
- On September 16, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) shared the details of the investments that will be made to Canadian provinces and territories through the [Safe Restart Agreement](#).
- On September 15, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced the investment of \$2.5 million through the Ontario Together Fund in Guelph-based Linamar Corp. to support the retooling of its assembly line to manufacture ventilator components to produce 10,000 Ontario-made e700 ventilators.

Ongoing COVID-19 Action

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](#).



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.

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