

## COVID-19 Information Bulletin #55

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**Date issued:** September 22, 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 Updated Guidance Documents

- **Updated:** WDGPH's [Child Care Provider Guidance](#) (September 21)
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Home and Community Care Providers](#) (September 17)
- **Updated:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#) (September 21)
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Guidance: On-Farm Outbreak Management](#) (September 21)

### Additional Resources

- **Updated:** WDGPH's Child Care Provider [Active Screening](#) Poster (September 22)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's Child Care Provider [What to do if a child develops symptoms while in child care](#) Poster (September 22)
- **Updated:** PHAC's [Advice for Essential Retailers During COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (September 22)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [Symptomatic Individual Information Factsheet](#) (September 21)
- **New:** Government of Canada's [COVID-19: Employee Illness and Leave](#) (September 14)
- **New:** Government of Canada's [COVID-19: Your rights and responsibilities as an employee](#) (June 24)
- **Updated:** [How to Self-Isolate](#) (July 31)

- **Updated:** [How to Self-Monitor](#) (July 31)
- **Updated:** [Self-isolation: Guide for caregivers, household members and close contacts](#) (July 31)

## Stopping the Spread of COVID-19 is Everyone's Responsibility

On September 17, Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health, issued a statement regarding things you can do to decrease your likelihood of becoming infected with COVID-19:

- Wear a mask or other appropriate face covering when indoors in an airspace shared with a group of other people not from your own household, and wear it properly, over both the nose and mouth. For more information visit our [Face Coverings FAQs](#).
- Avoid large groups, especially indoors and where there is inadequate physical distancing. Limit the number of people in an indoor gathering you are hosting to no more than 10 people. Consider postponing your social gathering to a future safer date. High levels of virus can build up in air shared by large numbers of people if one or more of those people are infected. Everyone wearing a mask in such situations can decrease the amount of virus in the environment; however, it is better to avoid such gatherings where possible.
- Meet with friends outdoors (best) or, if an outdoor meeting is not practicable, meet in a well-ventilated indoor room (with windows and doors open if weather allows) in small groups and wear masks.
- [Practise good hand hygiene.](#)
- Where possible, restrict close contacts to a small number of family and friends. A social circle can have up to 10 people, but it must always be the same 10 people to remain a safe circle. No one should be part of more than one circle. Social gatherings are meant for larger venues with physical distancing (2m).

Visit our [website](#) to view the full statement.

## Ontario Limits the Size of Unmonitored and Private Gatherings

The [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is reducing limits on the number of people permitted to attend unmonitored and private social gatherings across the entire province. The government had previously imposed these restrictions in Toronto, Peel Region and Ottawa. The new limit on the number of people allowed to attend an unmonitored private social gathering across the province is:

- 10 people at an indoor event or gathering (previous limit of 50); or
- 25 people at an outdoor event or gathering (previous limit of 100)

Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings cannot be merged together. Gatherings of 35 (25 outdoors and 10 indoors) are not permitted.

WDGPH's media release regarding this announcement is posted on our [website](#).

## 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.

The following documents have been updated on the [school section](#) of our website:

- WDGPH COVID-19 Checklist for Before and After School Programs (September 21)
- Symptomatic Student Information (September 22)

Resources for [teachers and staff](#):

- COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Teachers (Poster)
- COVID-19 Guidance for Schools - Additional Tips for Physical Distancing
- COVID-19 Guidance for Schools - Additional Tips for Hand Hygiene
- COVID-19 Guidance for Schools - Additional tips for cleaning and disinfection

School resources from other agencies:

- PHAC's [COVID-19 Guidance for Schools Kindergarten to Grade 12](#) (Updated: September 17)
- Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 School Screening](#)

## Announcements and Changes to Services

- On September 21, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced that it is pressing the federal government for increased funding needed to fight COVID-19, modernize Long-Term Care, and build critical infrastructure.
- On September 21, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that it has signed contracts with 7 Indigenous companies that participated in a process limited to businesses led or owned by Indigenous individuals. These contracts, worth approximately \$2.5 million in total, will provide 15 million disposable masks for the Essential Services Contingency Reserve (ESCR).
- On September 18, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is providing \$467,500 to the [Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario](#) (OACAO) to administer the new Seniors' Centre Without Walls Micro-Grants program and other capacity building initiatives.
- On September 18, the [Government of Canada](#) announced that Canada and the United States have agreed to extend the temporary restriction of all non-essential travel across the Canada-U.S. border until October 21, 2020.
- On September 18, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#), announced that people in New Brunswick can now receive one-time keys from their health authorities to use with COVID Alert, Canada's COVID-19 exposure notification app.
- On September 18, the [Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced that people in Saskatchewan can now receive one-time keys from their health authorities to use with COVID Alert, Canada's COVID-19 exposure notification app.

- On September 17, the [Government of Ontario](#) introduced the *Helping Tenants and Small Businesses Act* that would, if passed, freeze rent in 2021 for most rent-controlled and non-rent-controlled residential units providing financial relief to the majority of Ontario's tenants.

## Ongoing COVID-19 Action

### Face Coverings Required at Additional Establishments in WDG

Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health, has included additional establishments within the Section 22 Order on mandatory face coverings. The expanded Section 22 Order came 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](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.

**COVID-19 Assessment Centres in the WDG area are walk-in only and do not book appointments.**

## 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.

**Please note our COVID-19 call centre is experiencing higher than normal call volumes. COVID-19 test results may take 4-10 days. Please keep checking the online portal.**

### 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)