

COVID-19 Information Bulletin #57

Date issued: September 29, 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 Amended Guidance Documents

- **New:** Ministry of Long-Term Care's [COVID-19 Long-Term Care Preparedness](#) (September 29)
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Workplaces \(Businesses and Organizations\)](#) (September 25)
- **New:** Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Mental Health and Addictions Service Providers in Community Settings](#) (September 24)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Guidance for Restaurants and Other Food Premises](#) (September 29)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Checklist for Special Events and Gatherings](#) (September 29)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Checklist for Food Catering](#) (September 29)
- **Updated:** PHAC's [Risk Mitigation Tool for Outdoor Recreation Spaces and Activities Operating During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (September 28)
- **Updated:** [PHAC's Risk Mitigation Tool for Workplaces/Businesses Operating During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (September 25)
- **Updated:** [Risk Mitigation Tool for Child and Youth Settings Operating During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (September 25)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Checklist for Taxi and Ride Supports](#) (September 24)

Guidance Documents and Resources for Child Care Providers

- **Updated:** WDGPH's [Child Care Provider Guidance](#) (September 25)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [Symptomatic Individual Information Factsheet](#) (September 25)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Child Care Centre Self-Auditing Checklist](#) (September 25)
- **Updated:** WDGPH's [COVID-19 Active Screening and Attendance Tool Template](#) (September 25)

Additional Resources

- **New:** PHO's [FAQ on Covid19 and HVAC Systems in Buildings](#) (August 31, 2020)

Amended Order for Workplaces

The [Government of Ontario](#) has amended order [O. Reg 364/20](#): Rules for Areas in Stage 3 under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*, to tighten public health measures in response to the recent rise in cases of COVID-19. The amended order took effect province-wide on Saturday, September 26 and includes:

- Additional measures and restrictions to restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments (including nightclubs) by prohibiting the sale of alcohol after 11 p.m., and prohibiting the consumption of alcohol on the premises after 12:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. (including employees), and requiring establishments to close by 12:00 a.m. and remain closed until 5:00 a.m. except for takeout or delivery;
- Closure of strip clubs across the province; and
- Requirement for businesses or organizations to comply with any advice, recommendations, and instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on screening for COVID-19.

Screening Tool for Workplaces

Businesses and organizations are required to comply with instructions issued on screening for COVID-19 effective Saturday, September 26. The [screening tool for workplaces](#) should be implemented for any workers or essential visitors entering the work environment. This does not include patrons entering a workplace (e.g., customers entering a grocery store, restaurant, bar or other food or drink establishment). It also excludes emergency services or other first responders entering a workplace for emergency purposes. Further, essential workers who travel outside of Canada for work purposes should not be excluded entry on this basis alone. Screening should occur before or when a worker enters the workplace at the beginning of their day or shift, or when an essential visitor arrives. **Please note that this tool may not be applicable to health care settings and some non-health care workplaces (e.g., congregate living settings) where existing screening is already in place. These facilities should continue to use their existing screening measures.**

Launch of the Personal Support Worker Return of Service Initiative

The Personal Support Worker Return of Service (PSW ROS) program provides a \$5,000 incentive to recent PSW graduates in exchange for a six-month commitment in the Long-Term Care or Home and Community Care sector. Long-term care homes and home and community care providers hiring newly graduated PSWs who are seeking new employment, and have graduated on or after April 1, 2020, can apply for this program. Ontario Health will support recruitment efforts by posting PSW positions for approved employers on [HFOJobs.ca](https://www.hfojobs.ca), and directing eligible PSWs to apply for these positions. To learn more about this initiative, visit www.healthforceontario.ca/pswros.

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.

Find answers to the following frequently asked questions in the [Symptoms, Cases, and Return to Schools](#) section of the schools webpage:

- What happens if a student/staff has COVID-19 symptoms? (Refer to document: *Guidance for symptomatic staff/student at school*)
- What actions are taken and when can a student/staff return to school if they've had COVID-19 symptoms? (Refer to document: *Guidance for return to school*)
- What happens if a student/staff tests positive for COVID-19? (Refer to document: *Guidance for a COVID-19 positive case among student/staff*)

Announcements and Changes to Services

- On September 28, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing \$52.5 million to recruit, retain and support over 3,700 more frontline health care workers and caregivers to ensure our health care system can meet any surge in demand, while continuing to provide safe and high-quality care to patients and long-term care residents.
- On September 25, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is investing \$741 million to help clear the backlog of surgeries and build more capacity in the health care system to effectively manage surges and outbreaks in COVID-19 cases.
- On September 25, [the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau](#) announced an agreement with AstraZeneca to procure up to 20 million doses of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate. This agreement adds to those already reached with Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Novavax, Pfizer, and Moderna, which were made following the recommendations of the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force.
- On September 24 the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is providing \$1.07 billion to expand COVID-19 testing and case and contact management. The government is also immediately investing \$30 million to prevent and manage outbreaks in priority sectors, including the province's long-term care homes, retirement homes and schools.

- On September 24, the [Government of Ontario](#) announced it is extending the Ontario Community Support Program until March 2021. This will ensure that low-income seniors and people with disabilities, many who are self isolating due to COVID-19, can continue to get meals and other essential supplies delivered to their homes in the upcoming winter months.

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



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 and can take up to 4-10 days to be available online.**

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

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

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