

WDG Board of Health

Highlights

Board of Health Members

George Bridge

*Chair,
Councillor, County of Wellington
Mayor, Town of Minto*

Allan Alls,

Councillor, County of Wellington

Christine Billings

Councillor, City of Guelph

Guy Gardhouse

*Councillor, County of Dufferin
Mayor, Township of East Garafraxa*

Rodrigo Goller,

Councillor, City of Guelph

June Hofland

Councillor, City of Guelph

Nancy MacDonald,

Vice-Chair, County of Wellington

Ralph Manktelow

County of Dufferin

Dr. Nicola Mercer

*Ex-Officio Member
Medical Officer of Health & CEO,
WDG Public Health*

Lambert Otten

County of Wellington

Chris White

*Secretary-Treasurer,
Councillor, County of Wellington
Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa*

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health is governed by a Board of Health consisting of local municipal councillors, mayors and community members and is mandated to support the well-being of individuals and communities.

Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health, updated the Board on:

The flu is here: Locally, there have been two confirmed cases of the flu in children. Public Health is distributing the flu vaccine to physicians and long-term care homes. Pharmacies will receive vaccine from the Ministry of Health in November. Currently those most at risk should get the flu shot. This includes children under 5, adults 65 and older, pregnant women and those with chronic (or immune suppressing) medical conditions. Adults 65 and older can get a high-dose flu shot from their doctor or from Public Health. High-dose vaccine is not available at pharmacies and pharmacists can not vaccinate anyone under 5 years of age. Public Health will be running high-risk clinics in October and general public clinics in November. For more information:

www.wdgppublichealth.ca/flu

Vaping is not a harmless habit: In the U.S., medical officials are investigating recent cases of pulmonary illness associated with vaping products; currently there are reports of over 800 cases and more than 13 deaths. While there are no known deaths in Canada, the Middlesex-London Health Unit has reported one case of severe pulmonary illness linked to vaping in a teenager and Quebec has declared its first case of severe pulmonary illness linked to vaping in a patient in their 50s. There is limited evidence vaping helps smokers quit. There is evidence that vaping is increasing smoking rates in children. Once youth begin vaping, they get addicted to nicotine. With youth oriented flavours, it appears the industry is targeting youth to purchase an addictive product.

www.wdgppublichealth.ca/vaping-facts

Seniors Dental Care: WDG Public Health will provide dental care for residents who are 65 years of age and older who qualify because of low income and a lack of access to insurance benefits. This dental care program will help reduce unnecessary trips to the hospital, prevent chronic disease and increase quality of life for our seniors. Public Health will have a staged roll out to ensure organizational capacity is developed to meet the demand in our area. Our facilities will be renovated to accommodate the expansion of dental services. Currently, WDG Public Health provides free dental care for children age 17 and under from qualifying families (through the Healthy Smiles Ontario program).