



PUBLIC HEALTH MEMO

COVID-19

June 11, 2020

Dear Stakeholders,

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented changes in our community. The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) has been working diligently to manage the impacts of COVID-19 and share information that is locally focused, relevant, and timely. As the situation evolves in the province and locally, the WECHU remains dedicated to working with the Ministry of Health, local health care providers and municipal partners, to monitor and coordinate the response to COVID-19.

In an ongoing effort to provide timely and reliable information to local partners and decision-makers, and an opportunity for further communication, we will be providing weekly COVID-19 stakeholder updates. As always, please feel free to contact our health unit if you have any questions or concerns throughout this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Theresa Marentette, RN, MSc
CEO, Chief Nursing Officer

Dr. Wajid Ahmed, MBBS, MAS, MSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health



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This is a weekly stakeholder update for the week of June 8th, 2020.

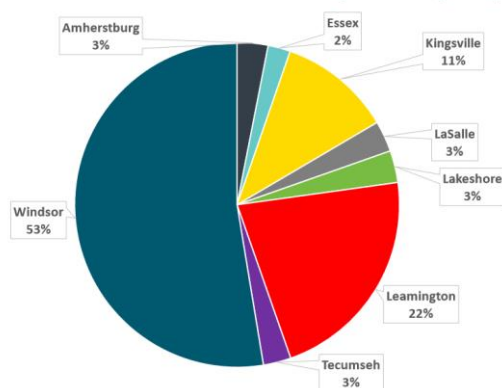
Current Statistics

For all up-to-date data and information, please visit the [Local Updates](#) page on our website.

Case Counts in Windsor and Essex County

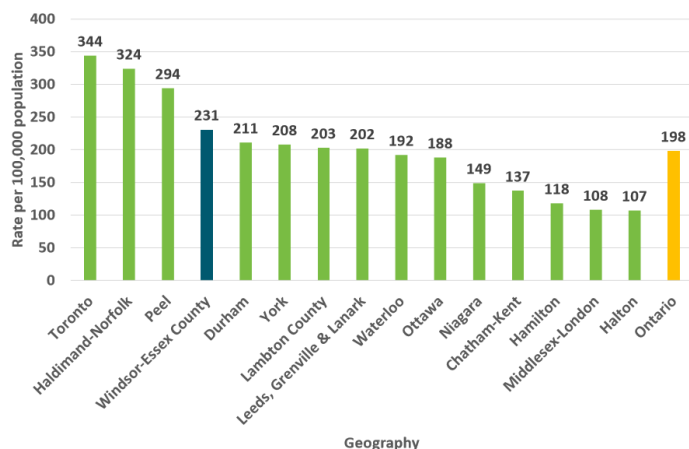
Confirmed Cases	Deaths
1,023	67
Resolved Cases	Current LTC & RH Outbreaks
577	0

Distribution of COVID-19 Cases by Municipality (as of June 5th)*



**The risk of COVID-19 transmission exists in all communities and should be treated as such. Breakdowns by municipality are provided in the new [weekly summary reports](#) posted on our website.*

Regional and Provincial Rates (as of June 5th)





Federal, Provincial and Local Guidelines and Recommendations (Updates)

For daily updates from the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit please visit the [Local Updates](#) page on our website.

Federal

- Extension of the closure of all land border between the United States and Canada to non-essential travel. It was announced on June 8th, that there will be a limited exemption to allow immediate family members of citizens or residents to come to Canada. Anyone who enters the country will still have to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Mandatory self-isolation for all travellers returning to Canada except for essential workers.

Provincial

The province is allowing twenty-four regions to transition to Stage 2, which will permit the re-opening of:

- Outdoor dine-in services at restaurants, bars and other establishments, including patios, curbside, parking lots and adjacent properties;
- Select personal and personal care services with the proper health and safety measures in place, including tattoo parlours, barber shops, hair salons and beauty salons;
- Shopping malls under existing restrictions, including food services reopening for take-out and outdoor dining only;
- Tour and guide services, such as bike and walking, bus and boat tours, as well as tasting and tours for wineries, breweries and distilleries;
- Water recreational facilities such as outdoor splash pads and wading pools, and all swimming pools;
- Beach access and additional camping at Ontario Parks;
- Camping at private campgrounds;
- Outdoor-only recreational facilities and training for outdoor team sports, with limits to enable physical distancing;
- Drive-in and drive-through venues for theatres, concerts, animal attractions and cultural appreciation, such as art installations;
- Film and television production activities, with limits to enable physical distancing; and
- Weddings and funerals, with limits on social gatherings to 10 people.

Windsor-Essex County, along with nine other regions mostly in the GTA, will remain in stage 1 of reopening. However, effective Friday, June 12th at 12:01 am, the limit on social gatherings will increase to ten people, and all places of worship will be permitted to open with physical distancing in place and attendance limited to no more than 30% of the building capacity. Other emergency orders are extended until June 30th, 2020, including the closure of bars and restaurants except for takeout and delivery only, and staff redeployment rules for long-term care homes and congregate settings like retirement homes and women's shelters.

- The province released [Protecting Ontarians Through Enhanced Testing](#). The expanded testing plan will focus on environments with many staff where social distancing may be difficult to achieve, including agri-food businesses.
- Ministry of Health released [guidance](#) on May 26th for the Health Sector to restart services. Once individual regulatory bodies grant approval, several healthcare providers such as dentists, chiropractors, optometrists, and



physiotherapists, will be allowed to reopen their doors.

Windsor-Essex County

- The WECHU has announced a collaboration with the “Miracle” planning group to assist with plans for the Windsor-Essex County Miracle on Saturday, June 27, 2020. On June 27th, the group aims to collect donated non-perishable food items from as many willing participants as possible in Windsor-Essex. For more information please visit www.june27miracle.com.
- As part of the provincial expanded testing strategy, WECHU is working in collaboration with provincial, regional and local partners to support increased COVID-19 testing within the agri-food sector. To date the health unit has investigated and tested workers as part of their role related to case and contact management. This enhanced testing model will include employees from farms and other agri-businesses within Windsor-Essex County.
 - As per the [class action order](#) issued on May 26th by Dr. Ahmed, under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, workplaces should be prepared with accurate and updated contact information for all employees including all permanent, temporary, and contract employees.
- The WECHU has launched the [Safe Return to Business: A Public Health Toolkit for the Windsor-Essex Business Community](#). The toolkit includes template signage and sector specific checklists and guidance documents to compliment resources provided by the government of Ontario.
- On May 29th, WECHU began drive-thru random testing in the community in collaboration with Essex Windsor Emergency Medical Services (EWEMS). Random testing for COVID-19 is important as it provides better quality data for analysis, planning, and intervention. Given that testing every person in our community at a point in time is not possible, a random sample of our community will provide the WECHU with enough information to make predictions and identify potential trends. For more information on testing guidance from the Ministry, review the [provincial testing guidance](#).
- Dr. Wajid Ahmed expanded his guidance from April 6th, recommending that residents wear a cloth mask when in public settings, and cannot ensure physical distancing (2 metres) from others. This can include, but is not limited to, trips to the grocery store, park, or when accessing public transit. More information related to masks can be found on our [website](#).

Guidance Documents

A list of all guidance documents from the Province of Ontario, and the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) can be found on the [Guidelines](#) page of our website.

- New document to minimize transmission from individuals working or residing in congregate living settings [Guidance for Congregate Living for Vulnerable Populations](#)
- New document to support [Summer Day Camps](#) that will operate during the months of July and August 2020.
- Updated documents for [Patient Screening, Testing Guidance, and Symptoms list](#)
- Specific recommendations on how to [choose, wear, and care for appropriate face coverings used in public](#) where physical distancing is not possible, along with [additional safety measures for provincial transit agencies](#)



Symptoms and Current Testing Guidance

Symptoms

Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or greater)
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath (dyspnea)

Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- New olfactory or taste disorder
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose, or nasal congestion – in absence of underlying reason for these symptoms such as seasonal allergies, post nasal drip, etc.

If an individual feels ill, they can take the COVID-19 [self-assessment tool](#) and speak to the healthcare provider.

A list of all symptoms, including those that are atypical, can be found on the [Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#).

Case Definition

The [Case Definition](#) was updated on May 11th to include travel within Canada, and the definition of a probable case was expanded to include people living / working in a facility known to be experiencing an outbreak.

Testing

- Expanded testing criteria now allows the following populations to be tested:
 - Symptomatic testing:
 - All people with at least one symptom of COVID-19, even for mild symptoms.
 - Asymptomatic, risk-based testing:
 - People who are concerned that they have been exposed to COVID-19. This includes people who are contacts of or may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case.
 - People who are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their employment, including essential workers (e.g., health care workers, grocery store employees, food processing plants).
- Testing in Windsor-Essex County is available through primary care providers and through the following local assessment centres:
 - COVID-19 assessment centres at Windsor Regional Hospital Ouellette Campus and Erie Shores Healthcare in Leamington. For more information including hours of operation and addresses visit our [website](#).
 - Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC)



FAQ

For more commonly asked questions from residents, please visit the [FAQ page](#) on our website.

Now that businesses are open, can I visit with family and friends?

The Province of Ontario has prohibited social gatherings of more than ten people. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect our community, the WECHU encourages residents to stay home, when possible, and reduce their interactions with others. Physical distancing means limiting the number of people you come in close contact with.

If you choose to meet up with others in a group of ten or less people, we would recommend continuing to practice frequent hand hygiene, physically distance and limit the number of people you interact with to reduce your risk of exposure. If you cannot maintain physical distancing it is recommended that you wear a cloth face mask.

Am I allowed to go fishing? Are marinas closed? Are boat launches closed?

Those that choose to fish in public areas should ensure they practice physical distancing and not gather in groups of more than 10 people. Marinas, boat clubs and public boat launches are open for recreational use as of Saturday, May 15th, 2020.

Who can I contact if I have questions about re-opening my business?

The province has an information line called 'Stop the Spread' that businesses can call with questions at 1-888-444-3659. This number is available 7 days a week.

Who should be wearing a non-medical mask (i.e. cloth mask)?

- If you are sick and seeking medical care:
 - If you are coughing or sneezing, wear a non-medical mask (i.e. cloth mask) to protect people around you from getting sick. This is very important if you go to an appointment, clinic, or a hospital. Do not go to other public places when you are sick, even if you are wearing a mask. If you are seeking medical care, an appropriate medical/surgical mask should be given to you upon arrival. Follow the instructions given to you in the health care setting about how to remove and store your non-medical mask (i.e. cloth mask) while you are there.
- If you are not sick and are going to a public place (e.g., grocery store or pharmacy):
 - If you are going to a place where physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain (such as the grocery store, pharmacy, or public transit), Dr. Ahmed asks residents to consider wearing a non-medical mask (i.e. cloth mask), as they may offer some additional protection to those around you.

Who should not wear a non-medical mask?

Non-medical masks (i.e. cloth masks) should not be placed on:

- Children under the age of 2.
- Anyone unable to remove the mask without help.
- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.