FOR IMMEDIATE

December 1, 2020

RISE IN COVID-19 CASES IN NORTHERN WELLINGTON COUNTY CONCERNING

NORTHEN WELLINGTON COUNTY, ON- Today, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health released COVID-19 case data broken down per municipality. While every municipality in the County has cases of COVID-19, this data shows that the Townships of Wellington North and Mapleton and the Town of Minto continue to have the highest number of cases in all of Wellington County.

Contact tracing investigations reveal that social gatherings, large and small, are responsible for the majority of cases. No one specific community group is solely responsible for the spread of the virus. COVID-19 is circulating across the County and cases can be directly linked to:

- Private indoor gatherings of family and friends
- Garage parties
- Birthday parties
- Playdates
- Sleepovers
- Weddings
- Dinner parties

"Unlike much of the rest of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit, the COVID numbers for Wellington North, Minto and Mapleton are consistent with the RED CONTROL level," said Wellington North Mayor, Andy Lennox. "This is one step away from the GREY LOCKDOWN level. We need to continue to be vigilant. Please continue to follow all public health guidelines and gather only with those you live with."

"Nobody wants another lockdown," said Mapleton Mayor Gregg Davidson. "We need to protect our most vulnerable residents. We need to keep our businesses open and our children in school. If social gatherings are responsible for the majority of community transmission, we need to listen to the data and our Medical Officer of Health. The sooner we can get the virus under control, the sooner we can return to normal life."

"On October 20, the entire County of Wellington had zero active cases of COVID-19 and today we're pulling Wellington County, Dufferin County and the City of Guelph into the RED CONTROL level," said Minto Mayor George Bridge. "This is a real wake up call. I urge all residents and business owners to follow Public Health guidelines. To date, we have been educating those not in compliance. Enforcement is coming for those not in compliance." For more information on COVID-19, please visit: www.wdgpublichealth.ca

-30-

Media Contacts:

Mayor Andy Lennox, Township of Wellington North T 519.831.9612 E <u>alennox@wellington-north.ca</u>

Mayor Gregg Davidson, Township of Mapleton T 226.929.7481 E <u>gdavidson@mapleton.ca</u>

Mayor George Bridge, Town of Minto T 519.261.0093 E gbridge@town.minto.on.ca