



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman

Mar. 12, 2021

Welcome

Welcome everyone to this week's community update.

I'm pleased to welcome Vickie Murray to our panel today. Vickie is the Integrated Director of Pharmacy for Grand River and St. Mary's General Hospital, and has lead the Grand River Hospital vaccine clinic since Day 1 and as a member of Waterloo Region vaccine task force, we are so pleased to have Vickie's expertise as we continue to expand our sites.

COVID-19 National Day of Observance

I would like to start by recognizing yesterday's National Day of Observance for COVID-19. We lowered all Regional flags to half-mast to remember those who have died of the virus since the global pandemic was declared a year ago. It was also a day to recognize the significant impact we have all felt, and honoured everyone who stepped up to serve.

It's important to pay tribute to the people – parents, siblings, friends and loved ones we've lost in our community and across Canada. COVID-19 has claimed the lives of 236 people in our region and 22,000 across the country.

This sombre anniversary is a reminder of the importance of continuing to protect each other while we work to get everyone vaccinated against the virus.



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Vaccinations

Additional vaccination clinics will open this month as a more steady supply of vaccine comes to Waterloo Region.

In the coming days and weeks, we'll be opening vaccination clinics in:

Today at Langs Community Health Centre in Cambridge;

On Monday March 15:

The University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy Health Sciences Campus in downtown Kitchener;

In Wellesley a partnership clinic between the Centre for Family Medicine Health Team and the Woolwich Community Health Centre

And on March 22 the largest vaccination clinic in Waterloo Region will open at SmartCentres, 66 Pinebush Road, Cambridge in the old RONA location. Grand River Hospital, in partnership with Cambridge Memorial Hospital and other community partners.

The vaccination clinic at The Boardwalk will be moving into a larger space at the same location and will be expanding its hours and immunization capacity in the coming weeks and months.

Vaccination clinics for First Nation, Métis and Inuit residents of Waterloo Region will be held at Anishnabeg Outreach in Kitchener on March 19 and 20; and at Regional Headquarters in Kitchener the following week.

More vaccination locations are underway including primary care sites to serve North Dumfries and Elmira. Also, stay tuned for updates on mobile vaccination teams who are vaccinating seniors across Waterloo Region in congregate care settings on a daily basis.



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Registration information is available on the Region's website or you can call our 24/7 contact centre at 519-575-4400.

A reminder to our community that this is not a race and everyone who wants a vaccine will be able to get one in the coming months. We are very encouraged by the additional vaccines being approved by Health Canada and the confidence of the federal and provincial governments on our supply.

Enforcement update

The Provincial Multi Ministry Enforcement Campaign has started in our Region, beginning March 11 to the 16

- Over the campaign there will be approximately 50 officers conducting checks, and includes Provincial Officers, joined by Municipal Bylaw, Regional Bylaw and Public Health;
- The focus of this campaign will be revisiting some of the locations visited in November, such as personal service settings, recreation and sport facilities and food establishments, along with other retail businesses and those flagged for follow-up from previous campaigns, in November and January.

This update is from March 4 to March 10 and includes actions from our local enforcement partners. There have been 4 enforcement actions since the last media update:

- 3 charges for this reporting period;
- 1 charge is from the previous reporting period, but was not reported at the time of the update.
- GRT Security issued 2 tickets (Blockline Station and Victoria Park Station) for Failing to Comply with the Face Covering By-Law - \$240 fine each



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- Region of Waterloo Security issued 1 ticket at 143 Concession St (Waterloo Region Housing) for Failing to Comply with the Face Covering by-law - \$240 fine
- Region of Waterloo Public Health issued 1 ticket to Silver Spoon Caribbean Restaurant in Cambridge for Failing to Comply With a Continued Order, regarding physical distancing, PPE, screening and no safety plan available – total payable is \$880.

Now we will move on to our weekly update from medical officer of health Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang and Vaccine Task Force Chair, Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton.

Dr. Wang's COVID-19 public health update

Deputy Hilton's Vaccine Task Force update

Now we'll hear from our special guest Vickie Murray.