COVID-19 Update

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Acting Medical Officer of Health

June 2, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Overall Trends

- After several days of low numbers of new cases, we saw a bit of an increase since yesterday. This is what I thought might happen with the increased testing volumes that we've seen lately, and we'll have to monitor the trend.
- We are seeing greater stabilization and control of outbreaks in long-term care and retirement homes.
- That said, we are now detecting outbreaks among workers in workplace settings. This is not unexpected, as COVID-19 continues to circulate in our community.
- I expect, as more workers return to work and testing continues to broaden, we will detect more cases among workers.

Workplace Outbreaks

- The outbreaks we have detected to date are not in workplaces that are open to the general public.
- If there is an increased risk to the general public due to a workplace outbreak, we will provide public health notification.
- Otherwise, we will list the outbreaks by general type of workplace in aggregate form on our dashboard, on the Outbreaks page.
- The Conestoga Meats outbreak, which was declared over last Friday, and its total of 91 associated cases, has been integrated into this table with aggregate data.
- In these outbreaks, workers are notified, and Public Health works with the Ministry of Labour, which has oversight over workplace health and safety, to investigate and ensure the implementation of appropriate measures to bring the outbreak under control.
- The numbers for these outbreaks will be updated on our dashboard every Tuesday and Friday.

**Closing Remarks**

- Now is not the time to loosen our adherence to public health measures.
- We all have responsibility for one another, we all have to be mindful that we must continue to protect our families, our friends, our neighbours.
- That is why I continue to urge the need to practice physical distancing, to wear a mask when you are in close proximity to others, to practice good hand hygiene, and to stay home and get tested, even if you only have mild symptoms.
- The numbers on our dashboard tell us that we are not out of the woods.
- To continue with our progression, we must remain vigilant, and we must continue to protect one another.
- Thank-you.