



BRIEFING NOTE

A message from Regional Chair Karen Redman

Media briefing remarks

April 1, 2020

(First COVID-19 related deaths in the Region)

- We were deeply saddened to hear that a resident of our community, a male in his forties, lost his life to COVID-19 yesterday as well as a second male in his fifties today.
- I offer heartfelt condolences to their families and loved ones and I know you are in the thoughts of all Waterloo Region citizens at this difficult time.
- Our thoughts are also with the staff at St. Mary's hospital who cared for these patients. And who continue to care for other critically ill patients as we work to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- This sad news is a sobering reminder that we all must keep making efforts to reduce the spread of this virus, and continue to adhere to the preventive measures put in place by public health.
- I would like to thank all of you across the region who are doing everything you can to control the spread. IT IS HAVING AN IMPACT. But we have still have work to do to get through this. Remember to:
 - stay home as much as possible;
 - practice physical distancing;
 - self-isolate;
 - work from home;
 - avoid gatherings; and;
 - wash your hands and wash them often.
- These measures are working, but we need to keep doing them. We are a caring community; I hear stories every day about residents doing whatever they can to help others. So I am asking you to help others and protect your own loved ones by following public health guidelines and we will flatten this curve - together.



BRIEFING NOTE

(Caring community)

- In the spirit of being a caring community, which is something Waterloo Region is known for, I am asking you to consider your local charities who are also struggling in this challenging time.
- The need for charitable services are high, yet donations will undoubtedly go down due to the current employment impacts. If you CAN give, give. For example, the Foodbank of Waterloo Region and the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank are accepting donations online at www.foodassistancenetwork.ca. They are ensuring food can be delivered to those who need it during COVID-19.