



# BRIEFING NOTE

## **COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman April 29, 2020**

It's hard to believe that we are in week seven of practicing physical distancing. Collectively, our efforts are working to slow the spread of COVID-19.

We **are** making a difference and we are seeing some promising signs.

Yet, I can not emphasize it enough, that COVID-19 is still in our community and especially impacting Long Term Care and Retirement Homes.

We continue to identify new cases each day and the risks of contracting the virus still exists throughout the region.

Today, the Region of Waterloo and all area municipalities extended the public closure of municipal administrative and operations facilities until at least May 31.

This decision aligns the municipalities with Sunday's announcement from the provincial government delaying the re-opening of the province's schools until May 31.

### **Provincial guidelines**

Earlier this week, Premier Ford also announced the provincial framework for reopening the province. It's a high level outline of how the government plans to reopen businesses, services and public spaces. There are no specific timelines for these plans as we're not yet at a point where it is safe to implement them.

In Waterloo Region, a safe and effective re-opening plan must continue to include our public health measures until we are sure that it is safe to relax them.

Together, with our municipal and community partners, our "back to business plans" are in the works – but they will be slow and cautious.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide emergency and critical services that will keep the community safe and running smoothly.

As always, we will make our decisions based on the guidance from Dr. Wang and our Public Health Team.



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## **The importance of continuing with physical distancing**

As the weather gets warmer, and as we approach celebrations such as Victoria Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day, remaining isolated will become increasingly more difficult for all of us. We all want to get back to enjoying gatherings with our family and friends. – I know I do!

These isolation measures are a marathon we've been running as a group and we all must cross the finish line together.

If any of us stop running, and "cheat" on isolation, it will send us all back to the starting line. And as a community, we can't let that happen.

Hang in there. I know it's tough, but it's important. Don't undo all the work we've already done. - It's working.

A little more sacrifice now, could bring us together sooner.

Thank you.