



BRIEFING NOTE

COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman Friday, July 10, 2020

Good morning.

Face covering bylaw

Monday will mark the first day of the Region's new face covering by-laws, which require us all to wear masks, or face coverings, in all enclosed **public** settings and on Grand River Transit.

This is an important step in helping our region safely re-open and move from Stage 2 to Stage 3 in the near future.

When we keep our germs from others by wearing a mask, we help reduce the virus from spreading. It's a simple and inexpensive action we can all take to take care of each other.

However, not all of us can wear a mask. It's important to show kindness to those who are unable to wear a face covering. Many health issues and disabilities are invisible and the by-law does not require people to provide proof of an exemption. We all need to continue to respect one another as we adjust to this by-law.

On Monday, Grand River Transit will be distributing free masks to transit customers. GRT staff will distribute 40,000 non-medical masks over the coming weeks as part their education campaign, "We've got you covered."

Help for businesses

This weekend will be a busy time for businesses preparing for the implementation of the bylaw.

We now have a mask by-law page on our website dedicated to businesses.

It has lots of information, frequently asked questions and resources.
Businesses can print by-law posters, by-law reminder cards and more.
Staff are working hard to add more resources for businesses, so we appreciate your patience.
Visit [www.regionofwaterloo.ca/mask by law biz](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/mask%20by%20law%20biz) for more information.

Temporary Bike lanes

I'm sure many of you have noticed the installation of temporary cycling lanes on our Regional roads. Staff are in the process of setting up to 30 kilometres of new temporary bike lanes.

The full installation should be completed by late July or early August.

These extra lanes will allow for proper physical distancing on busy sidewalks and will continue through the summer to October 2020.

If the weather permits this weekend I encourage you to get out and test one of them out!

Have a safe weekend everyone!