



BRIEFING NOTE

COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman July 14, 2020

Launching Phase 3

Yesterday, the province announced Phase 3 of re-opening starting this Friday. Our Region was again one of 24 areas allowed to enter Phase 3, which is very encouraging news as this means most of our economy will now be open – with safety measures and some restrictions in place.

Some Phase 3 changes include allowing:

- restaurants to offer indoor dining;
- personal care services;
- re-opening performing arts centres and theatres;
- re-opening of childcare centres and outdoor playgrounds;
- resuming team sports and live sporting events;
- opening bars, gyms, and tour services.

At this time we're anticipating guidance from the province regarding the reopening requirements for these businesses, so those who have questions about guidelines for re-opening should visit the province's website.

Although this is a much anticipated time for many businesses, I encourage businesses and services not to re-open until they can do so safely.

I also want to add that although many more businesses will be able to open as of Friday, there remains a small percentage who are not yet permitted to open. As a Region, we need to continue to support these businesses through our behaviours in the community. We need to continue to

contribute to the flattening of the curve by following all the recommended Public Health measures. Don't leave these businesses behind.

Public Health measures

Entering Phase 3 is a result of all the hard work of our healthcare staff, frontline workers, support workers and citizens who followed public health guidelines throughout COVID-19. Thanks to all of you for your diligence and patience.

With more businesses opening and outdoor gatherings of up to 100 people being allowed starting on Friday, I want to stress the importance of continuing to practice public health guidelines. The fact that our face covering by-law started yesterday will be extremely important as indoor gatherings will increase to allow up to 50 people. The Region's GRT staff are giving out free masks to transit riders and I'm told we've already distributed 2,000 masks!

We must remember to continue to stay two metres apart, wear masks when we're out and wash our hands thoroughly and often, trying not to touch our faces. Social circles still remain at 10 people across the province.

We've come a long way, however we don't have a vaccine, we are still in a pandemic and catching COVID-19 is still a risk. Please continue to practice public health guidelines and keep us moving in the right direction.

Business support

As businesses work to re-open or enhance their services, the Region is hosting two events this Thursday that I encourage businesses and stakeholders to participate in.

On Thursday, a panel discussion on 'COVID-19 Best Practices for Waterloo Region Restaurant's' is planned for 10 a.m. Hear from restaurants that have successfully navigated new pandemic guidelines and ask them your questions.

Also on July 16, Council's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Committee is inviting all local businesses to share their ideas and feedback with the committee from 1-3 p.m. on how to help rebuild our economy.