



BRIEFING NOTE

COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman Tuesday, July 28, 2020

We have learned so much about living with COVID-19 since it was first detected in Waterloo Region back in March. We've adapted our lives in so many ways: staying physically distant, washing our hands more frequently, learning new ways to do business and now embracing the Face Covering By-law.

Not everyone agrees with the Mask Bylaw...but for the most part, people are wearing masks on transit and in enclosed public places. I truly appreciate this community's willingness to look out for each other and come together when times are tough.

We have been getting lots of questions about the details of the mask by-law. We're working hard to find all the answers and we regularly update the FAQ section on our mask by-law webpages.

I think it's important for all of us to remember WHY we're doing this and get back to the basics:

- Masks help protect OTHER people from your respiratory droplets.
- Masks are just ONE tool to help fight COVID-19 – we can't forget other important health measures like handwashing and physical distancing.
- Masks are especially important when distancing is hard: like on transit and in indoor public places.
- Finally, if you are around others outside your circle, and unsure whether the by-law applies, **just wear a mask.**

Whether you agree with the by-law or not, I truly believe that everyone in Waterloo Region shares the same priorities of keeping cases numbers low, protecting the most vulnerable and supporting our local businesses to help economic recovery.

I want to thank everyone for pulling together as a community, wearing face masks and adapting to our new normal.