



BRIEFING NOTE

COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman Friday, May 15, 2020

Collaboration and resilience during COVID-19

I am so proud of Waterloo Region as we continue to persevere through the pandemic.

One of the most positive things to come out of this pandemic is seeing how our community comes together in times of need.

Through creativity and collaboration, the Region and our partners are providing supports to our community despite the challenges of COVID-19.

This week, I learned of two examples of this.

In the area of housing, the Region of Waterloo and its community partners continue to find homes for people who need them the most.

In April, Lutherwood, the emergency shelters, and street outreach agencies worked together to support 10 families and two individuals who were homeless into community housing, AND Another 15 households will move into units this month.

In the area of supplying connectivity to students, the Region of Waterloo, in partnership with four local charitable foundations in the Smart Waterloo Region network, have successfully raised enough money to cover internet costs for the students of 1,500 families in the region. This will ensure that all of these students can stay engaged and keep up with their school work until school begins again.

Opening up

As the province begins to open up, it's more important than ever to keep up or even increase physical distancing measures.

Now is not the time to relax.

Until a vaccine is developed, or an effective treatment discovered, Public Health measures will be part of our everyday lives – in all settings.

Our “new normal” will still include physical distancing, hand washing and wearing a face covering.



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I recommend wearing a face covering, when you can not maintain a safe physical distance to prevent the spread of your germs to others, even if you are not experiencing symptoms.

If everyone did this, we could limit the spread significantly.

Here's mine, I ordered it from a neighbour who is making cloth masks.

Victoria Day long weekend

The weather is getting nicer and the urge to be outside is getting greater, especially on the first long weekend and **unofficial** start to summer.

But this year, the Victoria Day long weekend will feel a little different due to COVID-19.

All public events and celebrations across Waterloo Region have been cancelled.

We are asking you not to set off fireworks in municipal parks, fields, laneways, school properties and to try to find other ways of celebrating without fireworks.

There are two reasons for this.

- This first is to discourage gatherings and
- the second is to limit firework related injuries. We don't want to put additional pressure on emergency responders and hospitals.

Personally, this weekend I'm looking forward to a - drive by from our daughter-in-law and my three grandchildren and if it's not raining our son and his wife will bring their dog over to play in the backyard with ours – they mostly chase squirrels but it's fun to watch.

What ever you choose to do this long weekend. Please be safe and remember to include your physical distancing in your plans.