



# BRIEFING NOTE

## COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman May 4, 2020

### **Community Gardens**

As Dr. Wang explained, Community Gardens will be allowed to open this week. I know residents will welcome this news as our area municipalities begin to reopen the over 80 community gardens that exist in Waterloo Region.

Community gardens play a vital role in our region. They provide residents easy access to healthy food, fresh air and exercise and I'm so pleased to hear they will be operating again.

### **Business re-opening**

As we heard on Friday, the Province has announced some more detail around their first phase of re-opening.

Certain businesses and workplaces will be allowed to reopen as long as they comply with strict public health measures and operate safely during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Those permitted to start up today, May 4, include seasonal businesses, like garden centres and some essential construction projects.

Although certain businesses are being permitted to reopen, it's critical that people continue to stay home, practice physical distancing and only go out for essential reasons. It is through these simple actions that the region is making progress to stop the spread of COVID-19.

### **Emergency Preparedness Week**

Finally, in the spirit of Emergency Preparedness Week, I want to thank our first responders who are always prepared for an emergency. We are learning a lot during this pandemic about what we need in order to be



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prepared for various kinds of emergencies. I also want to thank frontline staff and of course, healthcare workers, for everything you have done to get us through COVID-19 so far. You are making a difference and we're getting closer to flattening the curve because of you.