



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Acting Medical Officer of Health

May 4, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Overall Trends

- Sadly, we continue to see COVID-19 deaths in our community. To date, 87 people have died in our community.
- I wish to express my deepest condolences to all the families... friends... and caregivers who have lost loved ones to COVID-19.
- There are currently 15 long-term care or retirement homes in outbreak
- 361 people have now recovered from COVID-19 in our community.

Community gardens

- We have had several requests around the reopening of community gardens, and much work has been going on to address these requests.
- This week area municipalities will begin to reopen the over 80 community gardens in the region.
- The Community Garden Council, in consultation with Public Health staff, have worked to ensure a safe transition back to operating these valued spaces.
- Only volunteers with assigned plots will have access to the gardens and they will be expected to follow public health's safety guidelines.
- Some of these safety guidelines include:
 - physical distancing;
 - using handwashing stations that will be made available;
 - cleaning and disinfecting tools and surfaces before and after use;
 - not having any social gatherings at the garden;
 - and staying home to self-isolate if you have any COVID-19 symptoms.
- All gardeners are asked to follow these new guidelines when they visit their community garden plots.

Closing Remarks

- Yesterday was the first real sunny, warm day that we have had in 2020.
- After another long winter, given yesterday's weather, I know that staying at home and limiting movement outside was particularly difficult.
- I also know that as we approach summer, our measures to slow COVID-19 won't get easier.
- But please remember, by staying home and by limiting the number of trips you make, you are protecting family, friends, neighbours and all residents of Waterloo Region.
- Your efforts to date have protected health care and essential workers. Your efforts have lessened the strain on local hospitals. Crucially, your efforts have saved lives.
- We are at a very important moment, locally, in our fight against COVID-19.
- Together, we will stay the course, continue to follow the required measures, and help our community fight COVID-19.
- Thank you.