COVID-19 Update
Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Acting Medical Officer of Health
April 10, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Modeling Forecasts for Waterloo Region

- Models cannot predict what will happen.
- But models can help us understand what could happen, to help support decision making, so that we can plan actions that will enable better outcomes.
- All modelling has limitations.
- And, with any model, the farther out predicted, the more uncertainty there is in the predictions.
- I will present modeling forecasts regarding the number of deaths we could see in Waterloo Region, based on the modeling projections released by the Province on April 3, 2020.
- The projections released by the Province were developed by several experts at Ontario Health, Public Health Ontario, and researchers at Ontario Universities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projected number of deaths over the course of the pandemic:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o Projected Ontario deaths:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- In the absence of public health measures: 100,000 deaths</td>
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<tr>
<td>- With public health measures: Up to 15,000 deaths</td>
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<td>- [Public health measures preventing 85,000 deaths]</td>
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<td>o Projected Waterloo Region deaths:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- In the absence of public health measures: (Roughly) 4,100 deaths</td>
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<td>- With public health measures: Up to (roughly) 615 deaths</td>
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<td>- [Public health measures preventing (roughly) 3,485 deaths]</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Projected number of deaths by April 30, 2020:</th>
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<td>o Projected Ontario deaths:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- In the absence of public health measures: 6,000 deaths</td>
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<tr>
<td>- With public health measures: Up to 1,600 deaths</td>
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<td>- [Public health measures preventing 4,400 deaths]</td>
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Projected Waterloo Region deaths:
- In the absence of public health measures: (Roughly) 246 deaths
- With public health measures: Up to (roughly) 66 deaths
- [Public health measures preventing (roughly) 180 deaths]

- In addition to being very rough estimates (which are not meant as predictions, but rather as projections to support decision making), these are ‘point in time’ projections.
- Ontario will continue to refine its models, and we will continue to update our modelling as a function of that.

Status update and a change to dashboard reporting (re negative tests)
- We now have 242 positive cases in Waterloo Region of which 77 cases are now resolved
- And locally we have tested 2,792 individuals
- Public Health Ontario Lab is no longer sending reports of negative tests to public health units.
- The province is transitioning to making it possible for people to check their COVID-19 test results online at COVID19.ontario.ca
- Because we will no longer receive reports of negative tests from labs, our dashboard will no longer report the number of negative tests in the Region starting today.
- Region of Waterloo Public Health will call all people with positive COVID-19 tests to inform them of their results. We will no longer be calling people to inform them of negative results.

Easter and Passover
- For those who celebrate… this is an Easter and Passover experience none could have expected
- For those who celebrate, Easter and Passover are precious moments in the calendar that are shared with members of their wider families
- But unfortunately, this cannot be our experience this year.
- That’s because we know that the most effective ways of slowing the spread of COVID-19 are staying at home and physical distancing.
- So this means celebrating Easter and Passover only with members of our own households
• If we relax our measures… if we let up our guard… even momentarily… this can and will lead to an escalation of cases and unfortunately, an escalation of deaths in Waterloo Region
• This will also undo the good work we have done in practicing physical distancing in recent weeks.
• So as you celebrate Easter and Passover, please keep this in mind.
• Continue to celebrate with members of your household, and continue to check-in virtually with your wider family and friends.
• And thank you to all who celebrated the Seder last night while maintaining physical distancing.

Ongoing measures
• As we continue with our measures and as we move through these important milestones in our calendars – birthdays, anniversaries and various other celebrations – we know that many of you want to know when this will be over…
• …But the reality that is we don’t yet know
• These measures are difficult, but they are absolutely necessary.
• This is a moment in our lives that none of us will forget. In the years to come, let us remember this time for having worked together and for having done the best we could… for ourselves… for those we care about… and for the most vulnerable in our community.