



COVID-19 Update

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

April 6, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Assessment Centres

- Local primary care providers with support from the hospitals and Public Health have opened two community assessment centres in Waterloo Region (in addition to the hospital associated assessment clinics).
 - One for Kitchener, Waterloo, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich (also known as KW4)
 - Located at the Westmount Walk-in Clinic at 50 Westmount Road North, in Waterloo
 - And one for Cambridge and North Dumfries
 - Located at Cambridge Memorial Hospital at 700 Coronation Boulevard in Cambridge
- To visit one of these sites you must have a referral from a health care provider
 - Residents are asked to complete the Ministry's self-assessment tool to determine if they require clinical assessment
 - Your family doctor or a walk-in clinic practitioner if you do not have a family doctor, may provide an assessment by phone or through a virtual visit and determine if an in-person assessment is required and make the referral
 - If you do not have a health card, please contact Public Health
- You must have an appointment; walk-ins are not accepted
- The purpose of the assessment centres is to provide in-person clinical assessment for individuals who are moderately ill who otherwise are unable to be assessed by their primary care provider
- At these centres, individuals will be clinically assessed and may be tested or referred for testing; **these are not testing centres.**

Long-term care: current situation

- We received notification over the weekend of the death of a male in his 80s at a local long-term care facility
- This is an especially difficult time for the family and loved ones, and I wish to express my deepest condolences to them. I know it is also hard for the health care workers who cared for him.
- We now have 6 long-term care and retirement home facilities in a declared outbreak
- We have more cases in some of these homes.
- This is not unexpected. We have seen in other parts of the Province how easily COVID-19 can spread in these settings.
- We expect to see the number of homes under outbreak and the number of cases rise in Waterloo Region, as in other parts of the province.
- We are specifically looking for cases in these settings... so we will have the information we need to help us take appropriate actions.
- Long-term care and retirement home across Waterloo Region are working hard and taking steps to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19.
- Public Health is supporting them.
- We need to remain vigilant, and monitor the situation closely.

Status in Waterloo Region

- We continue to refine our dashboard.
- Today I'm happy to introduce an additional type of 'epi-curve', one that is the 'gold standard' for epi-curves, because it is based on the date of onset of illness for the cases, rather than the date the cases were reported to us.
 - It reflects the true frequency of new, confirmed cases over time
- The graphs by reported date, which can be useful when comparing to data supplied by the Province by reported date, is still available
 - People can see it by toggling to change the 'date field' on the upper right hand corner.
- As I mentioned previously, we are still in the early phases of the pandemic, and we still have serious challenges ahead.
 - Such as the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases in long-term care; and
 - The increase we will see in the number of people who will need hospital care and in particular ICU care.
- We will continue to see more cases, as there is broad community transmission in Waterloo Region.

- If we stay home and maintain our physical distancing though, we do not give the virus the ability to transmit from one person to another easily.
- This will decrease the number of new cases, the number of hospitalizations and the number of deaths. As well as allow our health care system to cope.
- We cannot let up our guard.