



Region of Waterloo  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

## COVID-19 Update

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Commissioner of Public Health & Emergency Services

August 25, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

### Overall Trends

- The status of COVID-19 cases in Waterloo Region remain relatively stable.
- As of this morning's dashboard update, there are 35 active cases.
- A total of 66,315 tests have been performed in Waterloo Region with positive results for approximately 2.2 per cent of all tests.
- There is currently one outbreak declared in long-term care and there is one new outbreak in a day camp. There are no new outbreaks in retirement homes, other congregate care settings or workplaces.
- One case in a day care or day camp constitutes an outbreak.

### Provincial Data System - Minor Adjustments

- As you know we switched to a new, provincial data system last week, and as such we are fine tuning our data quality processes for the new system.
- We've had to make small adjustments to our overall numbers, due to reasons such as removing duplicates or transferring cases that should be attributed to other health units.
- As additional health units onboard the system, there could be ongoing data adjustments for a while.
  - For example, today, we have one new positive case and four previously reported cases were transferred to another health unit so our dashboard shows a net decrease of three cases.
- So data quality work will continue, as a result of this transition and as a regular part of our work. To ensure we have the most accurate numbers for our local situation.

## Preparing for back to school

- Many families in Waterloo Region are getting ready to return to school in two weeks.
- Back to school is always a time of transition for students and their families, and we expect that transition will be more challenging this year.
- There are some things families can do now, to feel more prepared.
  - Begin adjusting sleep schedules.
  - Get back to routines, practice your morning routine, including screening your child for symptoms.
  - Practice proper hand hygiene with your child
    - Washing hands with soap and water – scrubbing hands, including fingers, thumbs, and wrists for at least 15 seconds.
    - Using hand sanitizer – again, rubbing all over hands for at least 15 seconds.
  - Practice putting on and taking off a mask, and have your child wear it around the house so that they are more comfortable wearing it for longer periods of time.
  - Practice no touch greetings, to greet classmates and teachers
  - Talk to your kids, explain how their classrooms may be different. Talk to them about the importance of these new measures.
  - Have a plan, in case your child needs to stay home.
  - Take care of yourself to manage your own stress.

## Closing remarks

- We are in this together and our individual actions matter.
- We will be living with COVID-19 and enhanced public health measures for many months to come.
- These measures – physical distancing, enhanced hand hygiene and wearing face coverings – are simple ways that we protect ourselves and each other from the spread of COVID-19.
- Your continued support for these measures is making a difference. Look at how far we've come and how we're continuing to keep transmission rates low.
- Thank you for your efforts.