



Region of Waterloo  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

## **COVID-19 Update**

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

July 10, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

### **Face coverings**

- As you are aware, Region of Waterloo Council voted unanimously in favour of the face covering by-laws, requiring face coverings in enclosed public places and transit that go into effect on Monday, July 13.
- This additional measure, when used with physical distancing, handwashing and self-isolating and seeking testing if you have symptoms will help us better protect each other.
- Many residents have already been wearing masks or face coverings in public settings. But this will also be new for many other residents. For those residents, I encourage you to practice wearing your face covering at home.
  - Get used to how it feels and make adjustments to the ties or elastics so that it fits comfortably and snugly.
  - Face coverings are made and fit differently, so it is important you learn how to wear yours.
- Not everyone is able to wear a face covering so I would like to please ask all residents to show kindness to those who are not able to wear a face covering.
- Remember, this by-law also does not apply to outdoor settings like splash pads, trails or parks.
  - In these settings, maintain physical distancing between yourself and those not in your social circle.

### **Closing remarks**

- It's been 4 weeks since we've entered Stage 2 of the reopening.
- I would like to recognize the efforts of each and every resident in Waterloo Region.
- We have made significant progress over the past four months and all of your efforts are making a difference.

- There are currently no outbreaks in Waterloo Region and our new cases continue to be stable.
- But there is still uncertainty ahead.
- The pandemic is not over.
- We do not yet know when the Province will move to Stage 3 as part of the plan to reopen Ontario.
- We also do not yet know whether there will be a second wave of cases, and if so, when it will happen or how significant it may be.
- No community is immune to a resurgence of cases of COVID-19.
- In Waterloo Region, the rate of new infections in our community could easily increase if we become too relaxed with our measures.
- This is why continuing to practice public health measures is at the foundation of our new normal.
- Through your efforts and actions, we can continue to protect our community, our family, friends and neighbours.
- Together we can continue to make a real difference in Waterloo Region.
- Thank you for all of your efforts.