



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

COVID-19 Update

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

July 21, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Overall Trends

- The overall status of COVID-19 remains relatively stable in Waterloo Region.
- As of this morning's dashboard update, we have 53 active cases
- A total of 46,395 tests have been performed in Waterloo Region with positive results for approximately 2.9 per cent of all tests.
- A total of 1,194 cases or 87 per cent of positive cases in Waterloo Region are now resolved.
- There is currently one outbreak declared in a long-term care home and no outbreaks in other congregate settings or workplaces.

Stage 3

- On Friday Waterloo Region moved into Stage 3.
- We were able to do so because of the efforts of our residents to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.
- But with Stage 3, there are new opportunities for the virus to spread.
- We have not eliminated COVID-19. The potential for increased cases and outbreaks still remains.
- We know that the virus spreads more easily in indoor settings and when they are in close contact with others.
- This is why physical distancing, frequent hand washing, and staying away from others and at home if you have any symptoms is essential.
- We must continue to learn to live with COVID-19. This will be our new normal for quite some time.
- While gathering limits have increased, for social gatherings, I encourage you to keep the number of people that you visit with **small**, especially in indoors settings, and continue to practice physical distancing with everyone outside of your social circle.

- To borrow a phrase from Dr. Bonnie Henry of British Columbia: 'More spaces, less faces.'

Closing remarks

- I am very grateful for our community's adherence to the masking bylaw, and for the hard work and sacrifices many of you have made to get us to Stage 3.
- I would like to thank our many community and health care partners for all of the work you continue to do each and every day.
- I would also like to take a moment to thank staff at the Region of Waterloo.
- They have adapted their practices, adjusted to our 'new normal' and just like many of you, they have also made personal sacrifices to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.
- We all have a role to play in helping our community move forward, in Stage 3 and beyond.
- What comes next depends on the actions of each and every one of us.
- We have seen what can happen when citizens stop adhering to public health practices, not only south of the border but also in other places in Canada, such as in BC and Alberta where infection rates have started to rise again after a period of low rates.
- As we begin Stage 3, we must not let up our guard. We must not take for granted what we have been able to gain through our collective efforts.
- Let's continue to protect each other.
- Thank you.