



Region of Waterloo  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

## COVID-19 Update

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health  
Public Health and Emergency Services  
July 23, 2021

### Highlights

- We continue to make progress in slowing the spread of COVID-19.
- Our community has really stepped to help us quickly build our vaccine wall of protection against the Delta variant but the wall is incomplete.
- Every day, we are seeing a new country or place in the world experiencing a surge of Delta infections, including areas with similarly good but incomplete vaccination rates.
- We cannot let up now. The risk of Delta will increase as we reopen our economy and society. Therefore, we need to protect ourselves. **Residents should not delay in getting their first or second doses.**
  - As vaccine roll-out has accelerated, all residents are able to get their second dose this summer.
- **We should also:**
  - **(1) Avoid closed spaces and crowded places;**
  - **(2) Favour the outdoors for permitted activities; and**
  - **(3) When indoors, ensure the space is well ventilated, and continue to wear a mask and physically distance.**

### Overall trends

- We continue to make progress in slowing the spread of COVID-19.
- Our weekly case rate now sits at approximately 25 cases per 100,000.
- We also continue to see steady progress in our vaccination rates with over 80% of all eligible individuals (12 years of age and older) receiving one dose, and over 60% of all eligible individuals receiving their second dose.
- Continuing to practice public health measures is critical to helping us slow the spread of COVID-19.
  - (1) Avoid closed spaces and crowded places;
  - (2) Favour the outdoors for permitted activities; and
  - (3) When indoors, ensure the space is well ventilated, and continue to wear masks and physically distance.

## We cannot let up now

- The Delta variant continues to be the predominant strain of COVID-19 in Waterloo Region, and is estimated to have accounted for 97% of cases in the previous two weeks.
- Our community has really stepped to help us quickly build our vaccine wall of protection against the Delta variant but the wall is incomplete.
- Every day, we are seeing a new country or place in the world experiencing a new surge or wave of Delta infections, including areas with similarly good but incomplete vaccination rates.
- We cannot let up now. The risk of Delta will increase as we reopen our economy and society. Therefore, we need to protect ourselves. **Residents should not delay in getting their first dose or completing their two doses, as soon as possible.**
  - As vaccine roll-out has accelerated, all residents are able to get their second dose this summer.
- Thank you to everyone who has already received two doses of vaccine!
- And thank-you to everyone who is helping others get vaccinated!
  - You are the reason the first dose coverage in Waterloo Region is one of the highest in Ontario at this time
- **Every dose, every person counts.** You have made such a difference for our community.

## Closing Remarks

- We have come a long way but we cannot let up now.
- As we're seeing more and more every day around the world, we may be feeling done with the pandemic but the pandemic is not done with us.
- **I am urging residents to complete their vaccination series as soon as they can** to protect themselves and their loved ones, our health care system, our local businesses and our community.
- **The earlier people protect themselves, the harder it will be for Delta to resurge.**
- We've never had, individually and collectively, as much control as we do now, over this virus and its impacts on our society.
- Let's make the most of it. Let's keep getting immunized Waterloo Region.