COVID-19 Update

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Public Health and Emergency Services
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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.
  o As vaccine roll-out has accelerated, all residents are able to get their second dose this summer.
• We should also:
  o (1) Avoid closed spaces and crowded places;
  o (2) Favour the outdoors for permitted activities; and
  o (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.
  o (1) Avoid closed spaces and crowded places;
  o (2) Favour the outdoors for permitted activities; and
  o (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.