



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

COVID-19 Update

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

July 28, 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 41 active cases.
- A total of 50,206 tests have been performed in Waterloo Region with positive results for approximately 2.7 per cent of all tests.
- A total of 1,224 cases or 88 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.

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- On this morning's dashboard update we have released two new graphs – one showing the evolution over time in the number of cases by transmission type and the other showing the evolution over time in the number of cases by age group.
- Since my update on July 7 regarding age groups, only one age group has had an increase in cases in the double digits, and that is the 20-29 year old age group. They went from 204 cases on July 7 to 227 cases on July 27.
- Since May 25th when the province opened up testing, the biggest change in age distribution of positive case numbers has been in the ≤ 19 and 20-29 year old age groups. Before May 25th, these age groups consisted of 15% of all cases, but since May 25th, they make up 40% of all positive cases.

Bars and Nightclubs

- We have heard concerns about people not following public health practices, particularly in bars or nightclubs.

- Under the Stage 3 guidelines, bars and nightclubs are permitted to reopen if they are able to operate like a restaurant, including using table service, rather than bar service for food/drink orders.
- We have been speaking with owners and operators and business associations to support them in the implementation of the new measures.
- Along with our enforcement partners, including the Alcohol and Gaming Commission, we have also increased our monitoring of these settings.
- Over the weekend there were no significant enforcement issues observed.
- Education was provided to address requirements around physical distancing.
- Operators are receptive and they want to do the right thing.
- We will continue to monitor the situation closely with our enforcement partners.
- There may always be some isolated situations that arise.

Risk factors

- In terms of the trends we're seeing among our positive cases, common risk factors include larger family gatherings or larger social circles. International travel also continues to be a risk factor.
- Returning travelers are reminded that they must isolate for 14 days upon their arrival in Canada and they must:
 - Avoid contact with household members who did not travel with them
 - Wear a face covering if a distance of 6 ft. from others in their place of isolation cannot be maintained
 - And regularly clean commonly used areas
- For gatherings, residents are reminded to stick to their social circles. This should be a small group, of up to 10 people, where you may have close or physical contact.
- Your social circle is a fixed group and doesn't fluctuate depending on the activity or gathering.
 - It's not one group of 10 people one day and another group of 10 people another day.
 - Whether your social circle has 2, 5 or 10 people, it's the same 2, 5 or 10 people. We all need to maintain physical distancing with anyone outside of our social circles.
- We can enjoy summer **and** continue to reduce the potential for COVID-19 spread. Take time to think of ways you can minimize the risks when spending time with others.
- When making plans:
 - Try to keep gatherings small.
 - Try to limit the duration of gatherings.
 - Try to spend more time outside if possible.

Closing remarks

- I appreciate that spending time apart from loved ones has been difficult and that there is a certain degree of 'caution fatigue'.
- But we are doing a really well in Waterloo Region.
- Let's continue to protect each other.
- Thank you.