



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

COVID-19 Update

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Public Health and Emergency Services
July 30, 2021

Highlights

- Our case rates have been falling in Waterloo Region, but will likely rise again.
- We are also seeing steady progress in vaccination rates with almost 83% of all eligible individuals, 12 years of age and older, having received one dose, and almost 69% receiving their second dose
- We remain at risk for a resurgence of Delta because our vaccine wall of protection is not complete. I urge all residents who have not yet done so, to get their first and second doses as soon as possible. Do not delay.
- Every day that someone delays their vaccination – is a day lost in the fight against a fourth wave.

Overall trends

- Our case rates have been falling in Waterloo Region, but will likely rise again.
- As of yesterday, our current case rate sits at approximately 17 cases per 100,000 per week.
 - This is down from a rate of approximately 60 cases per 100,000 per week at the beginning of July
- We are also seeing steady progress in vaccination rates with almost 83% of all eligible individuals, 12 years of age and older, having received one dose, and almost 69% receiving their second dose.
- But we remain at risk for a resurgence of Delta because our vaccine wall of protection is not complete.
- We need to aim for the highest first and second dose coverage rates possible.
 - For more sustained control of resurgences, we need to aim for 90% coverage or more for first and second doses
- I urge all residents who have not yet done so, to get their first and second doses as soon as possible. Do not delay.
- Every day that someone delays their vaccination – is a day lost in the fight against a fourth wave.

Vaccination status trends

- Across Ontario, the risk of getting COVID-19 is 6.4 times higher for individuals who are not vaccinated compared to those who are fully vaccinated.
- Full vaccination offers the best protection against serious illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19.
- Locally, for all COVID-19 cases since May 1
 - 72.1% of cases were not vaccinated
 - 25.3% were partially vaccinated or not yet fully protected by their vaccination
 - 2.6% were fully vaccinated or “breakthrough cases”
- The majority of hospitalizations, 72.1%, were individuals who were not vaccinated.
 - 25.2% were partially vaccinated or not yet fully protected by their vaccination
 - 2.7% of hospitalizations were in fully vaccinated persons
- Of reported deaths in our community since May 1, 83.4% were not vaccinated or not yet protected by their vaccination.
 - Five deaths were among fully vaccinated individuals; 4 of these were associated with long-term care and retirement home outbreaks
- Your best protection against COVID-19 is full vaccination so don’t delay your second dose.
- Getting the vaccine is your best defense against COVID-19 and greatly reduces your risk for serious outcomes.

Day camp outbreak

- Delta is the predominant strain of COVID-19 in our community.
- It is highly transmissible and spreads easily in the absence of public health measures and amongst individuals who have not been vaccinated.
- We recently identified a number of cases and many high risk contacts due to an outbreak at Adventure 4 Change Day Camp with multiple cohorts.
 - Adventure 4 Change Day Camp has voluntarily closed all day camps and other activities at this time and has been co-operative with Public Health
 - We are working closely with the organization to ensure appropriate infection prevention and control measures are in place and that high-risk contacts are identified and contacted
 - Community interactions outside of the camp have also played a role in this outbreak
 - Enhanced testing is ongoing and we are encouraging anyone with symptoms or who has attended the camp to seek testing
 - Through this testing we expect more cases to be identified
 - We will continue to provide close support to the day camp

Closing remarks

- All residents in Waterloo Region are advised to continue to self-monitor for symptoms.
 - If you are experiencing symptoms, stay home, isolate away from other household members and seek testing at a local assessment centre
 - If you are unable to safely isolate at home, the Isolation Site is available to you at no-cost
- Delta continues to circulate in Waterloo Region. To protect yourself and loved ones, continue to:
 - Avoid enclosed spaces, with poor ventilation and crowded places
 - Choose outdoors, when possible, for permitted activities
 - When indoors, continue to wear a mask or face covering and practice physical distance between yourself and people outside of your household
 - Even when outdoors, if you're surrounded by a lot of people, distance and mask
- While we build our vaccine wall of protection, we need to continue to practice public health measures.
- I am very appreciative of our community in Waterloo Region and that so many of you have stepped up to get vaccinated and advance their second doses. You are why our community and our economy are reopening.
- I also want to give a special shout-out to the 18-29 year olds in our community. Waterloo Region has one of the highest number of first doses in this age group in the Province because of you. Over 87% of those 18-29 have had a first dose.
- What we do now, helps determine our future and helps to protect against a fourth wave.
- Let's keep protecting each other.
- Thank you.