



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

COVID-19 Update

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

July 7, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Overall Trends

- The overall status of COVID-19 continues to go in the right direction.
- As of dashboard refresh at 10:30 a.m. this morning, we have 68 active cases in Waterloo Region.
- A total of 38,383 tests have been performed in Waterloo Region with positive results for approximately 3.5 per cent of all tests.
- A total of 1,141 cases or 86 per cent of positive cases in Waterloo Region are now resolved.
- And as of this morning's update, there are currently no active outbreaks in long-term care, retirement homes, workplaces or congregate settings.

Demographics

- We've gotten some questions about whether there's been some shift in the age groups of our cases.
- From our first case in March until May 25 (when testing was expanded so that anyone could get tested), we had 1078 cases
- Since May 25, we have had an additional 247 cases identified since testing expanded.
- The age groups which most frequently test positive are now the 20-29, 30-39 and under 19 years of age groups.
 - Which now represent 24%, 18% and 15% of our cases.
 - For people over the age of 80, we had 223 cases before May 25, and since then we have had 13 cases.
- This shift in demographics is not unexpected given the outbreaks in long-term care and retirement homes experienced in April and May, which have now been largely brought under control.

- It's also not unexpected to see more cases identified in younger populations given that anyone can now get tested.
 - Previously, many of these individuals would have been ineligible for testing.
- **What we are seeing, since testing has been expanded, is a more fulsome understanding of the distribution of cases amongst various age groups in our community.**

Closing remarks

- I am supportive of the new by-laws, requiring face coverings in enclosed public places and on transit.
- The by-laws further support my strong recommendation that people wear masks when physical distancing is not possible, especially in enclosed, indoor settings and on public transit.
- I continue to recommend that residents follow the other public health measures, in addition to wearing face coverings.
- We must not stop physical distancing, practicing proper hand hygiene, and self-isolating and getting tested if we develop symptoms.
- Together with face coverings, or masks, these measures will help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.
- As many of you make plans for the summer, I urge you to continue to practice these measures with your friends and family and that you gather smart.
 - **Stay** home if you're sick
 - **Maintain** physical distancing between yourself and anyone outside your social circle or bubble.
 - **Always** have the names and contact info of everyone you gather with (as much as possible).
 - **Remember** to wash your hands often
 - And seek **Testing**, if you have symptoms
- Together we *have* made a difference, and we can continue to make a difference.
- Thank you for all of your efforts.