



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 9, 2021

Highlights

- Our case rates and hospitalizations have stabilized and we have seen a major increase in vaccination rates for both first and second doses in Waterloo Region.
- Don't delay your second dose. Full immunization is your best protection against COVID-19 including the Delta variant.
- Personal public health precautions remain essential to help limit and control the spread of COVID-19 and to protect loved ones.

Overall trends

- Our case rates and hospitalizations have stabilized and we have seen a major increase in vaccination rates for both first and second doses in Waterloo Region.
- Our weekly incidence rate is slowly trending downwards.

Vaccination status of cases

- Since May 1:
 - 72.7% of cases were unvaccinated
 - 24.8% were partially vaccinated or vaccinated but not yet fully protected by their vaccination
 - 2.5% were fully vaccinated
- The majority of hospitalized cases since May 1, 2021 in Waterloo Region are unvaccinated cases (75.1%).
 - 22.2% were partially vaccinated or vaccinated but not yet fully protected by their vaccination.
 - 1.8% were fully vaccinated.
- Of reported deaths in our community since May 1, 72.7% were individuals who were not yet vaccinated or were not yet protected from their vaccination.
 - Four deaths were among vaccinated individuals.
- We do know that residents who are elderly and frail or have serious health conditions are more susceptible to serious complications and death from COVID-19 infection.

- Vaccines are highly effective at reducing the risk for severe outcomes.
- Don't delay your second dose.
- Full immunization – two doses plus two weeks – is your best protection against COVID-19 including the Delta variant.

Public health precautions

- It is imperative that we continue to practice public health precautions, even as we move to Step 2 and increase vaccination rates.
- Public health precautions remain essential to help limit and control the spread of COVID-19 and to protect loved ones.
- All residents are advised to continue to:
 - Physically distance
 - Wear a face covering or mask
 - Limit close contact with others, especially indoors
 - Avoid crowded indoor spaces
 - Stay home, get tested, and self-isolate from household members when you are experiencing symptoms.
 - If you cannot isolate at home, our Isolation Site is available for you, at no cost.
- Getting vaccinated as soon as we can and continuing to be diligent with our public health precautions will allow us to keep pushing back against the Delta variant and slow transmission in Waterloo Region.

Closing remarks

- We have a great opportunity this weekend at Bingemans Conference Centre for anyone 12 and older to get their first or second dose.
 - For anyone who has not yet received their first dose, you are still able to book an appointment and walk-ins are also welcome.
 - We're also encouraging all eligible residents to re-book an earlier second dose appointment for this weekend.
- Please get your second dose as soon as you can.
- Delta is circulating widely in Waterloo Region.
- The best vaccine for your second dose is the vaccine that is available first.
- We have a good supply of the excellent Moderna vaccine and you can safely take Moderna for your second dose for strong protection.
- We are not out of the woods yet, but we have a path to get there. Please help us get there, through getting vaccinated and keeping up with the public health precautions.
- A special shout out and thanks to all those who are helping their friends, family and neighbours get vaccinated, including Twitter accounts like Vaccine Hunters Canada and Waterloo Vaccine Tracker! You are doing wonders for our community. Every dose counts!