



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

COVID-19 Update

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

June 26, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Forest Heights

- You will notice that four additional cases have been added to the number of staff cases for the Forest Heights outbreak.
- These were picked up as part of the most recent round of testing at Forest Heights, as part of very close monitoring of the outbreak situation with frequent testing.
- They were all asymptomatic cases.
- A careful assessment of each case is conducted. Staff were wearing appropriate PPE, and the risk to residents and other staff is considered low.
- Asymptomatic cases being picked up during staff testing is likely something we will continue to see more of, as long-term care and retirement homes now undertake regular testing of their staff.
- We will continue to carefully monitor.

Asymptomatic staff cases and outbreaks in LTC Homes and Retirement Homes

- Based on more regular testing of staff in these homes picking up sporadic, asymptomatic cases, an outbreak will no longer automatically be declared when such cases are detected.
- An investigation and risk assessment will first be done.
- Some of these positive test results may also, in some cases, be signs of infections that have occurred in the past.
- Although, upon detection of these cases, measures for outbreak and enhanced monitoring will still be put in place, they may be scaled back appropriately if the investigation and further monitoring does not suggest evidence of an ongoing risk.

Closing remarks

- I was grateful for the opportunity to connect with members of the business community yesterday.

- I wanted to make sure that the businesses knew that even though we may not have all of the answers, we want to work with them to understand their needs.
- I appreciated hearing about their experiences, both their successes and challenges, in implementing the public health measures
- We will continue to work with them to identify how we can support them.

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- I also want to thank our testing partners. I appreciate all their efforts as testing has significantly increased over the last month.
- Our partners are working tirelessly each day to meet the needs of our community.
- The testing sites are busy. Increased demand often means longer wait times, especially at the drive-thru site.
- I would like to ask everyone who is going to a testing site to please be prepared to practice your patience and your kindness.
- Everyone at the testing sites are doing what they can to try and service our residents as best as possible.
- And I would also like to remind everyone that there are four assessment and testing centres across Waterloo Region, so I encourage you to explore your options if you are seeking testing.

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- I continue to recommend comprehensive measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.
- As a community, we have and are continuing to do a good job. But as we have seen south of the Canadian border, we must not let up on the recommended public health measures.
- We've heard a lot about masks recently. While masks should be worn when physical distancing cannot be guaranteed, they are not a replacement for other measures.
- Physical distancing, proper hand hygiene and staying at home, or self-isolating, if you have any symptoms, are all critical measures that we all must embrace as part of our 'new normal'.
- We have a collective responsibility, as a caring community, **to protect each other.**
- Thank-you for doing your part, let's continue to protect each other.