



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
June 4, 2021

Highlights

- We continue to see slow improvements on a weekly basis, but yesterday and later today, we will be reporting an increase in the daily number of cases, compared to the recent trend.
 - This may be due to the May long weekend, but we will need to continue to monitor.
- The stay-at-home order has been lifted but the province-wide shutdown remains in effect.
 - I continue to strongly advise all Waterloo Region residents to only have close contact with their immediate household members or one other household, exclusively, if you live alone.
 - If you choose to gather with people outside of your household, practice physical distancing, wear a face covering and only gather outside. And only to a maximum of 5 persons.
- We have circulation in Waterloo Region of the new B.1.617 or Delta variant, believed to be more transmissible than the currently dominant B.117 or Alpha variant, which drove our third wave.
 - We therefore must continue to consistently and diligently practice our public health precautions.

Overall trends

- As of June 3, our weekly incidence rate is approximately 45 cases per 100,000 per week. The provincial rate has also dropped substantially and is now approximately 40 cases per 100,000 per week.
- Yesterday and later today, we will be reporting an increase in the daily number of cases, compared to the recent trend. This may be due to the May long weekend, but we will need to continue to monitor.
- We are approaching similar rates to where we were before the Province implemented the province-wide shutdown, which is still in effect.

- Things can change quickly if we relax measures too soon, so we must keep going and drive rates down further.
- The fewer cases we have, the better we'll be able to control new variants, as they emerge.

Need to proceed cautiously

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Closing remarks

- We must continue to exercise caution, and proceed with re-opening in a very gradual manner while we immunize more and more of our community.
- We need to hold onto our gains. We need to protect one another. The fight is not over.
- I am grateful for everyone who continues to show their commitment and care to each other, by continuing to practice public health measures and getting vaccinated when it's our turn.
- Everything you do, does make a difference.
- Thank you for all that you are doing.