



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
May 21, 2021

Highlights

- Overall, our trends have improved from the peak of the third wave in Waterloo Region but indicators have stagnated over the last two weeks. We are not “out of the woods” yet.
- Celebrate safely this long weekend. I recommend you continue to only have close contact with your household members. If you choose to gather with others outside your household, up to the legally permissible limit of five people, only gather outdoors, maintain 2 metres of distance from those outside of your household, and wear a face covering. **Do not gather indoors.**
- We are at a critical moment. To let up now and relax measures too quickly, would put all our gains at risk.

Overall trends

- Overall, our trends have improved from the peak of the third wave in Waterloo Region but indicators have stagnated over the last two weeks. We are not “out of the woods” yet.
- We are no longer seeing strong improvements week over week as we had in late April, early May.
- As of May 19, our weekly incidence rate is approximately 74 cases per 100,000 per week. The provincial rate is approximately 91 cases per 100,000 per week.
- Our number of outbreaks is relatively stable.
- Taking into account interim data, our 7-day average for per cent positivity now at 6.3 per cent. Ontario’s 7-day average is at 6.4 per cent.
- We are at risk of losing our gains, if we relax measures too quickly.
- Your actions make a difference.

Long weekend

- The forecast looks like we have another warm weekend ahead of us but we need to continue to practice public health precautions.

- Yesterday, Ontario announced that outdoor recreational amenities such as basketball courts and sports fields will reopen tomorrow Saturday, May 22 with restrictions in place for physical distancing.
- Celebrate safely this long weekend:
 - I recommend you continue to only have close contact with your household members.
 - If you choose to gather with others outside your household, up to the legally permissible limit of five people, only gather outdoors, maintain 2 metres of distance from those outside of your household, and wear a face covering.
 - Do not gather indoors.
- What we do this long weekend, will determine when we can begin to reopen.

Closing remarks

- Yesterday the Province announced a three-step plan to reopen safely and cautiously.
- We know what we need to do to get there.
- We are at a critical moment. To let up now and relax measures too quickly, would put all our gains at risk.
- Please continue to limit your mobility and avoid close contact with those outside of your household, so we can have a better summer for all.
- If you choose to gather with others outside your household, up to the legally permissible limit of five people, **only gather outdoors, maintain 2 metres of distance from those outside of your household, and wear a face covering.**
- **Do not gather indoors.**
- Your actions do make a difference and a better, brighter future is in our hands.
- Thank-you.