



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 28, 2021

### **Highlights**

- Things are moving in the right direction but COVID-19 continues to circulate in our community.
- The fewer cases we have overall, the better we'll be able to control new variants, as they emerge.
- If you are visiting with someone from another household, be sure to stay outdoors, maintain physical distance and wear a face covering.

### **Overall trends**

- After some stagnation in our case rates, we have started to see improvements again.
- As of May 27, our weekly incidence rate is approximately 55 cases per 100,000 per week. The provincial rate is approximately 62 cases per 100,000 per week.
- We have 387 active cases and 8 outbreaks.
- Taking into account interim data, our 7-day average for per cent positivity is now at 5.3 per cent. Ontario's 7-day average is at 5.5 per cent.
- Things are moving in the right direction but COVID-19 continues to circulate in our community.
- We must keep practicing public health measures consistently and diligently, as we continue to immunize more and more of our community, to keep moving in the right direction.

### **New data reporting**

- We made two data reporting changes this week.
- On our COVID-19 summary dashboard we are now reporting cases of the B.1.617 variant.
  - These are previous cases, and the change on Wednesday reflected a change in reporting, not an increase in cases.

- However, we do anticipate more cases will be identified as we have seen with other variants.
- We also expect that new variants will continue to be detected. This is the nature of viruses.
- The fewer cases we have overall, the better we'll be able to control new variants, as they emerge.
- We also launched a new dashboard for wastewater surveillance.
  - Monitoring wastewater for COVID-19 is a complementary surveillance tool that helps to identify COVID-19 trends and inform our response.
  - At this time, the surveillance reporting confirms that our confirmed case data is in line with the wastewater signal.

## Closing remarks

- Our trends are improving but we are not done yet.
- Continue to practice public health measures and avoid close contact with people outside your household.
- If you are visiting with someone from another household, be sure to stay outdoors, maintain physical distance and wear a face covering.
- Your efforts are making a difference, and together we can drive case rates lower in Waterloo Region as we continue to work towards reopening.
- ...
- I would like to acknowledge the work of Paramedic Services and to thank Chief VanValkenburg and Ann for joining us today.
- No matter the challenge, staff at Paramedic Services approach each shift with care and compassion and work together, every day, to support our community.
- Paramedics, logistics staff, and other support staff all play a crucial role in keeping our communities safe.
- You support our community members in some of their most vulnerable moments and you do so with an unwavering commitment to providing excellence in patient care.
- Your dedication and your professionalism is truly inspiring. Thank you for all that you do.