



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

COVID-19 Update

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Public Health and Emergency Services
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Overall trends

- Although in the last couple of days, our daily number of new cases reported has come down a little, we are still firmly overall in the Red category and there is broad spread of COVID-19 in our community.
- There are currently 349 active cases of COVID-19 in the Region, surpassing our highest reported caseload from the spring.
- We have met the updated thresholds for each of the indicators outlined under the Red-Control category of the Provincial framework.
 - Our current weekly incidence rate is 60 cases per 100,000.
 - Our current per cent positivity taking into account interim data is 3.3 percent.
 - Our reproductive rate has fluctuated between 1.1-1.5 over the past week.
 - We have experienced some larger scale outbreaks, particularly in workplace and business settings.
 - In the past week, our ability to contact cases within 24 hrs has dropped to as low as 50 per cent (three-day moving average), but this is temporary as we continue to reallocate and reinforce our staffing.
 - Our team has indicated we should be back up to 90 per cent in the next day or two.
 - Following Chair Redman's request to the Province, they have indicated they will be providing us with additional staff for case and contact management starting next week.
 - We currently have over 90 staff and students allocated to case, contact and outbreak management (which includes the 25 school nurses).
 - The Province will be providing approximately 10 more staff, which will bring our complement to a little over 100.
 - We've also introduced efficiencies, such as having the schools send out information to the families of children in cohorts who have been dismissed, so families will receive in a timely manner the

“Red-Control”

- We recommend that businesses make plans for each level of the framework.
- If Waterloo Region is moved into the Red-Control category some of the significant changes would include:
 - Limits for indoor public events would decrease to 10 people (previously 50) and outdoor public events would decrease to 25 people (previously 100)
 - These limits – 10 people indoors, 25 outdoors – would also apply to restaurants, sports and recreational facilities, event spaces, retail, and other settings.
 - Cinemas, excluding drive-ins, would be closed and performing arts facilities would be closed to spectators.
- All measures for each previous level would still be required in the Red-Control category, such as required screening of patrons

Closing remarks

- At this time when the circulation of COVID-19 has never been higher in Waterloo Region, **I continue to recommend for the time being that all residents stay home and only leave for essential purposes** such as:
 - Going to work
 - Going to school
 - Groceries or take-out
 - Medical appointments
 - Exercising, preferably outdoors
- Please **avoid any social gatherings with friends, coworkers, and extended family**.
 - This includes birthday parties, sleepovers, playdates, coffee dates, game nights and dinner parties. Please avoid any of that.
 - Limit your social interactions to only your household members, which can include one or two essential caregivers or supports for someone who is living alone.
- We have seen how fast this virus can spread. We need everyone’s help to dramatically reduce our social interactions for now.
- Doing so will significantly reduce our risk of having to move beyond Red and can shorten the time we will otherwise need to stay in Red.
- I know it is tiring. We all want to get back to normal.
- So we need to do this. To not only avoid longer and more severe restrictions. But to be able to start lifting restrictions, sooner rather than later.
- We did this earlier this fall, we can do it again.
- Let’s protect one other and our loved ones.
- Please support one another during these difficult times. We are stronger together.
- Thank you.