



Region of Waterloo  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

## COVID-19 Update

Dr. Julie Emili, Acting Associate Medical Officer of Health

August 4, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

### Overall Trends

- In Waterloo Region, the overall status of COVID-19 remains stable.
- I am encouraged to report that we have had a number of days over the past week where no new cases were reported.
- As of this morning's dashboard update, there are 40 active cases.
- A total of 53,314 tests have been performed in Waterloo Region with positive results for approximately 2.6 per cent of all tests.
- There are currently two outbreaks declared in a long-term care home and no outbreaks in other congregate settings or workplaces.

### Reopening schools

- Last week the Province announced their plans for return to school including:
  - Self-screening for symptoms of staff and students
  - Increased hand hygiene practices, including training and hand hygiene breaks
  - Requiring face coverings for staff and students in Grade 4 through 12
    - Students in kindergarten through Grade 3 are encouraged, but not required to wear a face covering
- We are reviewing the guidelines and we will continue to work to support our local school boards in the implementation of those guidelines.
- We are excited about the additional public health nurses to support the re-opening of schools and are awaiting more information from the province.

## Changes to Stage 3

- The Province also provided additional guidance for restaurants and bars, operating as part of Stage 3. These settings now require:
  - That all patrons remain seated at all times, both indoors and outdoors, with exceptions to use the washroom
  - Operators are now required to keep a client log, with contact info, for a period of 30 days to support case and contact management
- These additional measures are welcomed but it remains critically important that patrons in these establishments continue to do their part as well. Including:
  - Practicing physical distancing with those outside your social circle
  - Wearing a face covering, except while consuming food/drink
  - Staying home if you are sick
  - And washing your hands often

## Closing remarks

- Our case numbers have been encouraging.
- We know that the virus is spread by people so these numbers speak to the value and importance of public health measures, and our residents' commitment to adapting to our 'new normal'.
- We all have a role to play and together these measures are making a difference.
- Thank you for your efforts.