COVID-19 Update
Acting Associate Medical Officer of Health,
Dr. Julie Emili, Region of Waterloo
June 19, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Dashboard Update

- As we have seen over the past month, the number of new cases that we are reporting continues to remain relatively low.
- While our numbers are moving in the right direction, and we continue to move past the peak, we must remain vigilant and remember that the virus is still active in Waterloo Region.

Masks

- There has been much comment on the subject of masks over the past week – and this is a good thing because it shows that we continue to be deeply invested in keeping our community safe.
- As we know, there are many different ways to keep our community safe:
  - Practicing physical distancing in the appropriate setting
  - Washing our hands often and not touching our face
  - Staying at home and isolating from others if we have symptoms
  - Getting tested when we are sick
- And wearing a mask plays a key role in keeping our community safe.
- Public Health strongly recommends masks in all indoor settings and on transit – this is part of a comprehensive approach that includes the other measures I mentioned.
- Today, we are launching a social media campaign to re-inforce the importance of wearing masks, and to make the wearing of masks the ‘new normal’. Chair Redman will provide you with more details about the “Face Mask Friday” campaign.
• Public Health is also working with local business owners and we want to hear from businesses about how we can help increase the wearing of masks in situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
• This is a complex subject and there is no simple answer.
• As always, we truly appreciate the comments and feedback that we have received this past week. We understand your concerns and will continue to evaluate the situation in our Region.

Closing remarks

• We continue to have a collective responsibility to do what we can to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in Waterloo Region.
• We will share this responsibility for some time to come, but by making the right decisions we will protect the health of our friends and families and we will help ensure that our economy can continue to re-open.
• Public health measures are certainly becoming part of the ‘new normal’ and we appreciate what our community has done to help us slow the spread of COVID-19.
• Let’s continue to work together.
• Thank you.