



Region of Waterloo  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

## COVID-19 Update

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### Highlights

- Our case rates are up marginally over the previous week.
- We are continuing to see steady progress in vaccination rates with over 83% of all eligible individuals, 12 years of age and older, having received one dose, and almost 72% receiving their second dose.
- The Delta variant remains a threat, particularly to individuals and groups who are not vaccinated. If you don't have a first or second dose, you are at an increased risk of getting COVID-19.
- I urge all residents to get vaccinated as soon as possible to prevent serious illness from COVID-19 including the risk of hospitalization and death.

### Overall trends

- Our case rates are slightly higher than they were a week ago.
  - Our 7-day rolling average is 2.9 cases per 100,000 (versus 2.6 last week).
- As of yesterday, our current case rate sits at approximately 20 cases per 100,000 per week.
  - This is down from a rate of approximately 40 cases per 100,000 per week in the beginning of July.
- We are also seeing steady progress in vaccination rates with more than 83% of all eligible individuals, 12 years of age and older, having received one dose, and almost 72% receiving their second dose.
- We continue to remain at risk for a resurgence of Delta which is why we still need more people to get vaccinated.
  - We need to aim for a 90% or greater rate of vaccination coverage for both first and second doses.
- The highest vaccination rates possible are required to keep our schools and community safe this fall.

- We need everyone to help prevent a fourth wave. If you are eligible for the vaccine and haven't got it yet, please make it a priority to get vaccinated.

## **Vaccination status trends**

- Across Ontario, the risk of getting COVID-19 is 8 times higher for individuals who are not vaccinated compared to those who are fully vaccinated.
- Full vaccination offers the best protection against serious illness, hospitalization and death due to COVID-19.
- Locally, for all COVID-19 cases since May 1:
  - 71.9% of cases were not vaccinated
  - 25.2% were partially vaccinated or not yet fully protected by their vaccination.
  - 2.9% were fully vaccinated or “breakthrough cases.”
- The majority of hospitalizations, 71.5% were individuals who were not vaccinated.
  - 24.4% were partially vaccinated or not yet fully protected by their vaccination.
  - 4.1% of hospitalizations were in fully vaccinated persons.
- Among cases in the ICU since May 1, 71% were in individuals who were not vaccinated.
  - 27.1% were partially vaccinated or not yet fully protected
  - 1% were in fully vaccinated persons
- Of reported deaths in our community since May 1, 83.9% were not vaccinated or not yet protected by their vaccination.
  - Five deaths were among fully vaccinated individuals; 4 of these were associated with long-term care and retirement home outbreaks.
- Getting fully vaccinated is your best defense against COVID-19 and greatly reduces your risk for serious outcomes.

## **School update**

- This week, the Province announced that Ontario's students will be returning to in-person learning this fall and released guidance outlining the health and safety measures that are required to be in place in schools for the 2021-22 school year
- These measures include wearing masks indoors and on student transportation, cohorting, distancing, having proper hand hygiene measures in place, and adequate ventilation.
- Public Health will continue to work with our school boards to support them in implementing provincial guidance and ensuring a healthy and safe environment for students and staff, including providing opportunities for students and their families to get vaccinated.

- This week and next, Pfizer vaccination clinics are being offered for students and their families at five schools across Waterloo Region.
- I encourage all youth to get vaccinated before returning to school.

## **Closing remarks**

- In closing, while COVID-19 is circulating in Waterloo Region, please protect yourself and others by following public health guidance:
  - Avoid enclosed spaces, with poor ventilation and crowded places.
  - Choose outdoors, when possible, for permitted activities.
  - When indoors, continue to wear a mask or face covering and practice physical distancing between yourself and people outside of your household.
  - Even when outdoors, if you're surrounded by a lot of people, physical distance and mask.
- All residents should monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19:
  - If you are experiencing symptoms, stay home, isolate away from other household members and seek testing at a local assessment centre.
  - If you are unable to safely isolate at home, the Isolation Site is available to you at no cost.
- I'd like to thank everyone who is making it a priority to get a first or second dose of the vaccine this summer.
- The decision you're making to get vaccinated now is going to make a difference this fall.
- Let's continue to work together to keep each other safe. Thank you.