



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman

Mar. 26, 2021

Welcome

Welcome everyone to this week's community update.

I'm pleased to welcome Dr. Kelly Grindrod, Associate Professor for the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy to our panel today. The School of Pharmacy is one of our key vaccination sites and we are very happy Dr. Grindrod could spare an hour out of her busy day to tell us more about COVID vaccines. We have appreciated her dedication to education and awareness on the use and efficacy of the various approved vaccines at community and stakeholder meetings over the last few weeks.

Ontario budget

The Ontario budget was announced early this week and we are optimistic on the financial commitments of the provincial government to municipalities specifically as we navigate unprecedented financial restraints as well as roll out the vaccine clinics. While the budget has great news for the Region, the most significant budget mentions for Waterloo Region and the Innovation Corridor was the support for **Two-Way all day GO train service**.

The hundreds of millions of dollars in investment are anticipated to be announced in the coming days, and will be the most significant step taken by the Government of Ontario towards making fast, frequent, two-way all day GO service a reality by 2025.



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While we are encouraged by the provincial budget I have reached out to the Premier with some of the concerns Waterloo Region is having as the vaccine roll out continues and look forward to working with him and his team as we move into Phase 2 of the roll out.

The good news for municipalities in our first against COVID-19 and to build back better continued yesterday when the federal government announced a one time doubling of our Gas Tax Allocation which will infuse our economic recovery through infrastructure projects.

Enforcement update

We received the final summary of the Provincial Multi-Ministry Enforcement Campaign that concluded two weeks ago. More than 500 visits were made to restaurants, retail stores, personal service settings and fitness businesses between March 11 and March 16. Unfortunately, compliance has decreased.

Some highlights of the Provincial Multi-Ministry Enforcement Campaign from March 11 to March 16.

- 523 businesses visited, which included retail, fitness and recreational businesses, personal care services and restaurants
- 42% compliance
- 21 tickets were issued
- 77 formal warnings were also issued
- 65 Orders to comply for Occupational Health and Safety Act requirements were issued
- Top 3 contraventions were screening requirements, safety plan, eye protection
- Provincial officers will be returning to conduct some follow up visits



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There have been 12 enforcement actions since the last media update. These do not include any charges from the Provincial campaign.

- 9 charges for the reporting period March 18 to March 24
- 3 charge is from the previous reporting period, but were not reported at the time of the update

- Region of Waterloo Security issued 2 tickets – one at 150 Main St. and one at 143 Concession St (Waterloo Region Housing) for Failing to Comply with the Face Covering by-law - \$240 fine each
- GRT Security issued 1 ticket at ION-Laurier-Waterloo Park Station for Failing to Comply with the Face Covering by-law - \$240 fine each
- City of Waterloo By-Law issued 7 tickets at seven separate private residences for gatherings – total payable is \$880 each
- City of Cambridge By-Law issued 1 ticket to E.V.O. Kitchen regarding screening, safety plan and signage requirements – Total payable is \$880
- City of Kitchener By-Law issued 1 ticket at a private residence for gathering – total payable is \$880

Now we will move on to our weekly update from Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang.

Vaccine Task Force Chair, Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton update

Special guest Dr. Kelly Grindrod, Associate Professor for the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy.