



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman April 1, 2021

Welcome

Welcome everyone to this week's community update.

Easter

As you're aware, we're having this update a day early for the Easter holiday. For those that celebrate Easter, I know it's going to look different again this year but it helps to know we are getting closer every day to being able to spend time with loved ones in person. We are reaching new vaccination milestones each week. So please celebrate responsibly and only with people from your own household for one more Easter so we can slow the spread of COVID-19 and return to normal traditions and celebrations sooner rather than later.

Business supports

Regional Council showed support for local businesses last night by approving \$1.1M for economic recovery. The funding is for two programs supporting local businesses: a COVID-Safe Ambassador Program for small and medium sized businesses and a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 retrofit program.

Businesses have been asking for increased clarity and information on how to operate safely in different stages of the Province's framework and the COVID-Safe Ambassador Program is a direct response to this need.



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Local businesses requested 300 per cent more funding than was available. As part of Regional Council's Vision for Beyond COVID-19, the doubling of this program is part of our \$3 million strategic investment through the 2021 budget to help alleviate financial pressures business owners have been forced to take on.

It's the first of its kind in Canada so we're thrilled to be starting here in our Region. We're certain it will help increase customer confidence as our region moves into economic recovery.

More information on the COVID-Safe Ambassador Program and applications to apply for retrofit PPE funding will be available in the coming weeks.

Thanks to the Greater KW Chamber of Commerce, the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce and Explore Waterloo Region for their partnership and assistance with these programs.

Enforcement update

There have been eight enforcement actions since the last media update.

- 5 charges for the reporting period March 25 to March 30
- 3 charges are from the previous reporting period, but were not reported at the time of the update
- City of Cambridge issued 1 ticket to Silver Spoon Restaurant in Cambridge for Failing to Comply with a Continued Order – regarding employee screening, the use of face coverings and being open for business past the hours permitted – total payable is \$880



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- City of Waterloo By-Law issued 1 ticket at a private residence for a gathering – total payable is \$880
- City of Kitchener By-Law issued 1 ticket at a private residence for a gathering – total payable is \$880.
- GRT Security issued 2 tickets at ION-Blockline Station for Failing to Comply with the Face Covering by-law - \$240 fine.
- Region of Waterloo Security issued 1 ticket at 150 Main St. for Failing to Comply with the Face Covering by-law - \$240 fine.
- Region of Waterloo By-Law issued 1 ticket to Nazarean Apostolic Church for Failing to Comply with a Continued Order – for failing to ensure the use of face coverings as required – total payable is \$880.
- Region of Waterloo Public Health issued 1 ticket to Shinwa Asian Cuisine in Waterloo for Failing to Comply With a Continued Order, regarding physical distancing, PPE, screening and no safety plan available – 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

Thanks everyone and stay safe this holiday weekend.