



BRIEFING NOTE

COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman May 13, 2020

Nurses Week

It's National Nursing Week. I sent a message to nurses in our Region yesterday on video and I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize them again.

Nursing is a profession of public service and caring. I want to thank all the local nurses for their hard work in our hospitals, our public health unit, our retirement homes and our long term care facilities.

Thank you for the difference you're making in Waterloo Region.

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Declaration of Emergency extended

The Ontario government extended the declaration of emergency yesterday to June 2, 2020.

This will allow the province to continue enforcing current emergency orders, such as restricting retirement and long-term care home employees from working in more than one facility; and prohibiting events and gatherings of more than five people.

This additional time will also ensure we have the necessary tools and health care capacity to contain COVID-19, while gradually reopening businesses, services and amenities safely.

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Reopening Waterloo Region

I want to remind residents that as we gradually begin to 'reopen' parts of Waterloo Region, we must take a slow and cautious approach.



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Many of us are excited to see that some businesses and workplaces are beginning to reopen. But as Dr. Wang reminded us, the gains we have seen locally can easily be lost if we're not careful.

As restrictions loosen and weather improves, please keep these three things in mind:

- 1. Continue public health measures:** Physical distancing, handwashing and other public health measures must continue even as restrictions are loosened.
- 2. Take it slow:** COVID-19 cases can rise very quickly if we are not careful. Working together and moving slowly can help us slow the spread of COVID-19.
- 3. Stay informed:** Information and guidelines can change quickly. Please continue to check media, social media and trusted websites like the Region, your local municipality and the Province of Ontario regularly.