



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman April 9, 2021

Welcome

Welcome everyone to this week's community update.

Stay-at-home order

This week's provincial stay-at-home order issued to help us slow the spread of COVID-19.

All Waterloo Region residents are advised to stay-at-home except for essential purposes. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. One of the essential purposes you *can* leave your home for is a vaccination.

We are all in this together and we want everyone to stay safe while we continue to increase vaccinations on a daily and weekly basis as supply increases.

Deputy Hilton will tell us more about additional vaccine access later in her update.

Education workers vaccinations

As Chair of Waterloo Region's COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution Task Force, I am committed to our continued collaboration with local school board partners to develop plans to support the vaccination for all educational staff as part of Phase 2 as outlined in Ontario's vaccination plan.

In this capacity and as Chair of the Board of Health, I will continue to advocate to the provincial government for increased supply to Waterloo



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Region to ensure we vaccinate education workers as quickly as our local supply allows.

Early this week we announced that staff providing direct personal support to students with special education needs are now eligible to receive their first COVID-19 vaccination.

Elementary and secondary school workers have been identified as a priority population in Phase 2 of Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination plan, as essential frontline workers who cannot work from home. This includes educators, custodial, school bus drivers, and administrative staff. The Region of Waterloo continues to follow Ontario's vaccination plan for prioritizing populations. Ontario's plan prioritizes vaccines for those at greatest risk of severe illness and those who care for them.

We've heard you and we will continue to prioritize vaccines for those at greatest risk of severe illness and those who care for them.

Infrastructure funding announcement

Early this morning the federal and provincial governments announced funding for two critical Region of Waterloo projects. This infrastructure funding comes at a critical time to help stimulate our local economy.

The historic West Montrose Covered Bridge will receive \$4.5 million from the provincial and federal governments to complete necessary repairs on this over 6 million dollar rehabilitation project, and

The Region will also receive funding for a new multi-use trail to connect the popular Iron Horse Trail with the future King Victoria Transit Hub in downtown Kitchener.



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Enforcement update

While most in our community continue to follow public health guidelines, unfortunately yesterday further charges were laid against Trinity Bible Chapel.

By-law staff attended Trinity Bible Chapel on Sunday April 4 and observed approximately 300 people attending indoor services. The Church's capacity is 575. Under the provincial regulations, the capacity for the church would be 86.

There have been 14 additional enforcement actions since the last media update.

- 9 charges for the reporting period March 31 to April 4
- 5 charges are from the previous reporting period, but were not reported at the time of the update
- City of Cambridge By-Law issued 3 tickets to private residences for gatherings – total payable is \$880 each
- City of Waterloo By-Law issued 8 tickets to private residences for gatherings – total payable is \$880 each
- GRT Security issued 1 ticket at Fairway Terminal for Failing to Comply with the Face Covering by-law - \$240 fine
- Region of Waterloo Public Health issued 2 tickets
 - 1 ticket to Destined Nails in Cambridge for Failing to Comply With a Continued Order, for providing service while the Provincial Shutdown requirements were in place – total payable is \$880
 - 1 ticket to Jimmy the Greek in Kitchener for Failing to Comply With a Continued Order, regarding physical distancing and PPE



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- total payable is \$1130, as the charge was issued to the corporation

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

Extro – Hear stories from our community

Today we are leaving you with a video from a new series created by the Region called “Hear stories from our community”.

They feature community leaders and medical professionals who share their reasons for getting vaccinated to help build trust in vaccine safety in priority communities.

Much effort and work has gone into understanding the root causes of vaccine hesitancy so information can be provided in a culturally appropriate way. Let’s watch.