



BRIEFING NOTE

COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman April 27, 2020

I want to acknowledge the ongoing hard work and sacrifice of staff at our long-term care facilities and retirement homes. You are playing a vital role during these extremely challenging times and your hard work has not gone unnoticed. Thank-you.

Provincial updates

Today I'm going to provide a few reminders of recent provincial announcements and local campaigns that impact Regional residents.

As you may have heard this weekend, the province has announced that schools in Ontario will remain closed until at least the end of May.

I know this news may be disappointing, especially for parents who are eager to have their children back in classrooms. This news is also a sign that in Ontario, we are not yet ready to resume our daily routines, including school, work and leisure activities.

The province also announced this weekend that they are allowing the opening of community gardens.

This is great news for so many residents in our community and I applaud this decision.

Community gardens play a vital role in Waterloo Region. They provide residents easy access to healthy food, fresh air and exercise. Community gardens are also great for the environment and strengthening community ties.



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Stay tuned for more information on community gardens in the coming days and weeks.

Reporting child and domestic abuse:

As Chair of the Police Services Board, I'd like to remind people to speak up if they suspect abuse of a child, relative or neighbour.

Since COVID-19 isolation orders, there's been an increase in domestic violence...

...and a decrease in reporting of suspected child abuse.

The Waterloo Regional Police Service has launched a campaign that states "if you see something, say something."

If you are a victim of domestic violence, or know someone who may be, please call 9-1-1 or the Waterloo Regional Police's non-emergency line at 519-570-9777.

We need citizens to speak up for those who don't have a voice or may not have access to help.

Visit the WRPS website for more information on how to get help.