



Region of Waterloo  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

## **COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Acting Medical Officer of Health

April 27, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

### **Overall Trends**

- I am very sad to report an additional six deaths since yesterday, for a total of 61 deaths in Waterloo Region.
- All of these cases were residents of long-term care home and retirement homes, and were over the age of 70.
- Very sadly (as I mentioned on Friday), I expect to see an increase in deaths in these settings going forward.
- I wish to express my deepest condolences to the families, loved ones, and caregivers of all who have passed.
- There are currently 10 long-term care or retirement homes in outbreak
  - 8 facilities have had their outbreaks declared over.
- I expect, as we're continuing with the close monitoring and expanded testing in these homes, we will detect more cases in more homes, and additional homes will go into outbreak.

### **Health System Partners & Community Support**

- It is a very sad time in our community.
- But we must continue the fight. We must not give up. We must give it our all.
- Multiple health system partners in Waterloo Region are continuing to work, actively and daily, with long-term care and retirement homes to support them in addressing challenges they may encounter, due to outbreaks and numbers of cases, insufficient or precarious staffing, and/or to ensure that they can continue to access the appropriate personal protective equipment (or PPE) that is required.

- In the meantime, to support our community and our most vulnerable, we need everyone to continue to:
  - Stay at home
  - Limit our trips in the community
  - Practice physical distancing when we are out
  - And wash our hands often

## **Closing Remarks**

- In closing, I wish to express my gratitude to the many health system partners in our region, to all these agencies as well as to the individual health care workers and staff of these agencies.
- You are breaking down barriers across our health care system, to enable better care and support for the residents of our community.
- You are truly making a difference. I am most grateful for the collaborative spirit and the long hours and days you are putting in for others in our community.
- Thank you so much.