



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

COVID-19 Update

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

April 13, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Overall Trends:

- I am sad to report that, since my update this past Friday, and as of 7 pm last evening, we have 3 more COVID-19 related deaths to report.
 - For a total of 11 deaths.
 - (We are counting all deaths where the person was COVID-19 positive, even if it may not have been the primary cause of death, as can sometimes be the case.)
- I wish to express my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.
- The overall number of confirmed cases has also significantly increased since Friday's update, as we have begun a significant expansion of testing since then.

Long-Term Care (LTC) update

- As I mentioned Friday, following increased availability of testing kits, we immediately began the process of maximizing testing at long-term care and retirement home facilities according to the updated provincial guidelines.
- All recommended staff and residents in facilities who should be tested, are being tested.
- In line with the updated guidelines, we are in the process of completing testing of all staff and residents in two long-term care facilities who have active outbreaks – Forest Heights Revera and Highview Residences.
- What we're seeing in facilities in Waterloo Region is what we're seeing across the province. These are vulnerable settings where COVID-19 can spread very quickly.
- As we receive the results of the expanded testing, I expect to see a significant increase in the number of cases detected among residents and staff at Forest Heights, Highview Residences and other homes.

- These results will give us a clearer picture of the status of COVID-19 in such homes, and will allow us to respond accordingly.
- Detecting these new cases now will help us reduce the number of additional cases in the future.

Final remarks

- Thank-you for staying home this past weekend, for limiting the number of times you leave your home, and for practicing physical distancing when you do go out.
- Thank-you for doing all you can to help our community fight this pandemic.
- You are making a difference.