



COVID-19 Update

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

April 3, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Long-term care: current situation

- As you are aware, the Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a directive for long-term care homes and retirement homes across Ontario such that, once they have one case, in either a patient or staff member, they are to be declared in outbreak.
- As a result, 6 facilities have outbreaks as of 10:30 a.m. this morning
 - See dashboard: <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/positive-cases-in-waterloo-region.aspx>
- These outbreaks will continue to be posted on our dashboard, and updated on a daily basis.
- ...
- We have seen a significant and rapid increase in cases at long-term care homes and retirement homes in other parts of the Province
- We should expect to see the number of homes under outbreak and the number of cases rise here locally too.
- Our homes in Waterloo Region are working hard and taking steps to prevent or slow the spread of COVID.
- We need to remain vigilant, and monitor the situation closely.

Status in Waterloo Region

- So far, the speed of increase of cases in Waterloo Region has been manageable. That has been our goal and continues to be our goal.
 - That is, to do all we can as a community so that our health system can cope.
- However, we are seeing that cases continue to increase across Ontario and we should expect that we will continue to have new cases in Waterloo Region for some time.

- We should expect to see more hospitalizations, more patients in ICU and, sadly, more deaths.
- We are still in the early phases of this pandemic.
- It doesn't mean all the efforts we've made as a community to date haven't had an effect.
 - I believe they have
 - They have prevented many cases, hospitalizations and deaths that we would have otherwise seen.
- But new cases will not subside anytime soon.
- We still have a long road to travel in the fight against COVID –
 - We don't know exactly how long that road is, but we do know that each of us can continue to positively impact the outcome.
- This is why we need to continue to do the right things for our community:
 - Please, only leave your home when you have to
 - And when you do leave your home, practice physical distancing
- I know it's very difficult because we don't have an end date we can look forward to.
- And things are changing fast. There's lots of new information, and new recommendations and restrictions to get used to...
- Every time someone is staying home as much as they can, or helping others stay at home as much as they can, they are helping us fight this pandemic.
- It helps our loved ones, our neighbours, and our community at large.
- Thank-you again for helping Waterloo Region stay strong.