Background

• Analysis is based on data from 9,897 COVID-19 cases reported between July 17, 2020 – March 24, 2021

• Sociodemographic risk factors are missing data which limits the reliability and generalizability of the results
Key Findings

- Cases are 2-3 times higher among those identifying as visible minorities and Black than would be expected compared to the 2016 Census.

- Cases are 1.5 times higher among those from large households than would be expected.

- Cases are 2 times higher than would be expected among those with non-official childhood languages.
Race category

The proportion of cases identifying as visible minorities and as Black is disproportionately higher (2-3x) than expected.
Household size

The proportion of cases among people in households of 5+ is 1.5x higher than expected.
Childhood language

The proportion of cases among those with non-official childhood languages is 2x higher than expected.
Waterloo Region Response

Waterloo Region has leveraged existing partnerships and created new ones to support our priority populations.
Region of Waterloo Actions

• Safe Voluntary Isolation Site funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada

• Community Engagement Working group created to ensure vaccine rollout and communication is tailored to local needs
  • hosting Town Halls to decease vaccine hesitancy
  • designing and implementing vaccination clinics with racialized communities
  • creating communication materials in multiple languages
Partnerships in Action—People Experiencing Homelessness

- An immunization strategy for people precariously housed or experiencing homelessness was developed.

- Mobile immunization teams hosted vaccination clinics in locations where they already congregate or access services.

- Using familiar clinical staff and known locations resulted in 863 doses being administered to people who are homeless/precariously housed and the staff who support them.

- This strategy was made possible by the collaboration between Kitchener Downtown and Langs Community Health Centres and staff from many partner organizations.
The Cambridge North Dumfries Ontario Health Team testing working group supported exploration of additional testing and supports for the South Asian and Punjabi community. Cambridge primary care physicians and community leaders worked to support educational outreach, materials in their languages and planning of COVID testing pop-up clinics when readiness is there. This collaboration resulted in a partnership that was leveraged to set up a vaccination clinic.

A community pop-up vaccination clinic was held on site at the Gurdwara Temple in the Shades Mill neighbourhood.
Pop-up Neighbourhood Clinics

- Five neighbourhood pop-up vaccination clinics will be held in our high priority neighbourhoods in Kitchener Waterloo beginning this week.

- This initiative is led by members of the Community Engagement Working Group in partnership with representatives from Black, non-white and other racialized communities and staff from the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo and the Region of Waterloo

- Community Ambassadors, living in the priority neighbourhoods, will be going door to door to encourage people to get vaccinated
Next Steps

• Continued outreach and engagement with community leaders and partners – building strong, trusting relationships

• Continuing with priority neighbourhood pop-up clinics

• Promotion of vaccine clinics and supports such as the safe isolation site via community ambassadors

• Continued data collection

• Listening, Learning, Acting