



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 Community Update – Connie MacDonald July 23, 2021

Welcome

Good morning everyone, and welcome to this week's community update. My name is Connie MacDonald, and I'm the Chief Communications and Strategy Officer for the Region of Waterloo, filling in this week for Chair Redman and Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Lauckner, who have conflicts.

I want to extend best wishes to everyone celebrating a happy Eid al-Adha, including many of our staff here at the Region. Eid al-Adha is a time for sacrifice, forgiveness and compassion which is why people make donations and share food with those in need. Thank you for celebrating safely, and we hope next year, we're able to do so together. Our community is taking the fight to COVID-19 by getting fully vaccinated. More than 60 per cent of residents aged 12 years and older have now received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, and thousands more people are getting vaccinated every day.

Our community is taking the fight to COVID-19 by getting fully vaccinated. More than 80 per cent of residents aged 12 years and older have now received a first dose. More than 60 per cent have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, and thousands more are getting vaccinated every day.

This week, the Region's comprehensive COVID-19 vaccine roll-out continued to make it easier for people to get immunized.

All public vaccination clinics are now accepting walk-ins for both first and second doses. While you can still book an appointment, residents now have



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the option to simply walk in and get vaccinated at a clinic as long as enough vaccine is available.

A new vaccination bus is bringing the vaccine to residents who have been unable to attend a public vaccination clinic, doctor's office or pharmacy. This convenient service is helping to protect under-served areas in priority neighbourhoods against the virus and the Delta variant.

We also brought back the drive-thru vaccination clinic at Bingemans after its success earlier this month. Anyone looking for their first or second dose were able to get vaccinated this week without having to leave their vehicles.

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself, your family and your community from COVID-19. Anyone who's 12 years of age and older with a first dose is encouraged to rebook an earlier appointment or walk-in to a clinic for their second dose. The more we get vaccinated, the closer we get to a full reopening.

While many of us enjoy expanded indoor settings and capacity limits as part of Step Three of the Province's Roadmap to Reopen, please remember to do so responsibly.

I know right now is a popular time for summer vacations and trips to the cottage and other activities – please enjoy these activities safely by following public health measures, including gathering limits.

There was one enforcement action since our last media update. Region of Waterloo by-law issued 1 ticket to Teletime Superstore for Failing to Comply with the face covering by-law, which is a 240 dollar fine.

I'll now pass it to our Medical Officer of Health Dr. Wang.



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Update from Dr. Wang.

Thank you, Dr. Wang.

Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton will now speak to the Region's vaccine roll-out.

Update from Shirley Hilton.

Thank you, Deputy Chief Hilton. We will now take media questions.

We will now hear from this week's guest, Fauzia Baig, Equity and Anti-Racism Advisor for the Region of Waterloo, on the work that she and community partners have been doing to help get our residents vaccinated.

Update from Fauzia Baig

Thank you Fauzia. We will now open it up to questions from media.

Media Q&A

Extro

Thank you everyone for joining us today. Have a safe and healthy weekend.