



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman April 23, 2021

Welcome

Good morning everyone, and welcome to this week's community update.

Enhancing restrictions and strengthening the stay-at-home order

I want to start by taking a moment to recognize how people may be feeling in response to new restrictions in place to slow the spread of COVID-19.

With enhanced protection measures and children moving back to online learning, many are feeling the effects of the third wave more deeply than before.

I know we keep hearing the same thing – that we need to continue to stay home as much as we can to protect ourselves and each other.

But we also have hope.

We have the vaccine, and we continue to make progress with it.

The vaccine has now been administered to more than 150,000 people in Waterloo Region. That's over 30 per cent of the eligible population in our community. This would not be possible without the hard working staff and volunteers at the clinics, pharmacies, and primary care offices across our region.

This week, we took another major step, by expanding vaccine pre-registration to the first group of essential workers. We continue to make substantial progress.



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And we know that both staying at home AND getting vaccinated can make a difference in our community's ability to recover more quickly.

It can help businesses who are eager to host you on their patios stay afloat.

It can help people get the corrective surgery they need faster.

It can help children who are missing their friends get back into the schoolyards.

It can SAVE lives.

Keep all of this in mind when these continued restrictions have you feeling discouraged or disheartened. Everything you do, counts. It is part of a larger effort, combined with the vaccine, to make us a healthier and safer community.

In the meantime, as we remain under a stay at home order, please stay connected with friends and family virtually and be mindful of feelings of isolation. If you or someone you know needs help, remember that local mental health support is available through [Here 24/7](#).

Earth Day and Volunteer Week

We know that for children, this time can be particularly challenging. As we reflect on Earth Day yesterday, it's a reminder to get outside and enjoy our beautiful natural environment.

We already see so many examples of this, including in the 18 organizations that received funding through the Community Environmental Fund grants. I was particularly encouraged by the focus on youth across many of these projects. These schools and organizations are not only helping to keep our



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spirits bright during this pandemic, but are improving their local communities in the process.

On that note, I also want to thank all the volunteers across Waterloo Region who do so much for our community. They have made the vaccine rollout possible and have also helped so many of our services to continue throughout this pandemic. On behalf of Regional Council and the entire community, thank you.

Enforcement update

There have been 25 enforcement actions since the last media update.

There are 18 charges for the reporting period April 15 to April 21, 2021.

There were also 7 charges from the previous reporting period that was not reported at the time of the update.

- Region of Waterloo Public Health issued 1 ticket to Curves and Contours Body Sculpting, Waterloo, for Failing to Comply With a Continued Order, for operating while the Shutdown Order is in place – total payable is \$880
- City of Cambridge By-Law issued 15 tickets to private residences for gatherings – total payable is \$880 each.
- City of Waterloo By-Law issued 6 tickets to private residences for gatherings – total payable is \$880 each.
- City of Kitchener By-Law issued 1 ticket to a private residence for a gathering – total payable is \$880.
- GRT Security issued 1 ticket at Allen Station for Failing to Comply with the Face Covering by-law - \$240 fine.



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- Wilfrid Laurier University Special Constables issued 1 ticket at a student residence for a gathering – total payable is \$880.

As we will hear shortly, the situation in Waterloo Region remains serious. Our hospitals and the provincial health system are extremely strained.

I feel the same frustration – and recognize the anger – that many community members do when we see these unlawful gatherings. The vast majority of residents are following public health and provincial guidelines, and yet a small few in our community are putting public health at risk.

To build upon our existing enforcement efforts, Waterloo Region Police Service has been tasked with coordinating a region-wide enhancement to compliance and complaint response.

WRPS will work with our municipal and bylaw enforcement to ensure a proactive and responsive approach is taken toward complaints and inspections around violations of the Reopening Ontario Act and Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

Now we will move on to our weekly update from Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang.

Updates from Dr. Wang and Deputy Chief Hilton.

Guest – Lee Fairclough

Now we welcome our guest, Lee Fairclough, President of St. Mary's General Hospital, and Hospital Lead for Waterloo-Wellington. Lee will speak to our situation at our local hospitals, as well as the importance of continuing to get tested for COVID-19.



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Thank you everyone for joining us today. We hope to see you again next Friday. Have a safe and healthy weekend.