



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman June 11, 2021

Welcome

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

London attack

I want to start by speaking to the recent attack in London, as it continues to fill our hearts with sadness and grief. We find hope in the outpouring of support from the community, in London, and here in Waterloo Region, where a virtual vigil was held earlier this week in remembrance of the victims. These events will not shake our shared values of inclusion, diversity, and kindness. Islamophobia, white supremacy and racism have no place in our community.

Vaccine rollout

I will now move on to the vaccine rollout and the Province's Roadmap to Reopen, which officially began with step one today. This marks a significant milestone in our fight against COVID-19, but one that we must navigate with cautious optimism.

It is important to understand that this positive milestone is a result of the collective strength of our community. It is because of the hundreds of staff and volunteers at the vaccine and testing clinics, and the hundreds of thousands of others who have received the vaccine and who continue to follow public health measures. Collectively, we are curbing the spread and are working towards community immunity.



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While we have reason to celebrate, we must continue to be vigilant. As more people get vaccinated, we see lower rates of COVID-19 among those groups. However, we also see COVID-19 cases in some people who have had only one dose because they are not yet fully protected.

Though nearly seventy percent of our eligible population has received one dose, only seven percent have received both. We know this second dose is critical to ensuring we can continue to reopen and recover from this pandemic, and so we are ramping up efforts to speed up our progress.

“What’s your why” campaign

On that note, I am excited to share with you a new campaign launching next week that will help us make progress more quickly. It is called “What’s your why” and this campaign is rooted in personal experience. All of us have our own compelling, personal and emotional reasons for why we want to be fully vaccinated.

Sharing those reasons and experiences can have a significant impact on others. Through this social media and advertising campaign, local influencers, elected officials and role models, including youth, will speak to their experiences.

The campaign will also speak to the evidence behind the vaccine and reinforce that once we are fully vaccinated, we can begin to return to all of the activities we enjoy.

I am going to share some of the social media images that you will see across various channels next week – and we also want you to share your own reasons for choosing to get vaccinated.



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This campaign builds on the targeted strategies already underway. This includes community members going door to door and information sessions in high priority neighbourhoods. With all of this work, we will reach a 75 percent or higher vaccination rate across all eligible groups in Waterloo Region.

Enforcement

We have 8 new enforcement actions to report from the period of June 3rd to 9th, as well as 2 charges from the previous reporting period.

Waterloo Region Police Services issued 4 charges related to a gathering in Uptown Waterloo:

- 2 are summons' to appear in court under the Reopening Ontario Act, fine to be determined by the court.
- 1 is a summons to appear in court under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.
- And 1 is a ticket under the Reopening Ontario Act, total payable of 880 dollars.

There were several tickets issued under the Reopening Ontario Act for gatherings at private residences, all with payables of 880 dollars each:

- 3 issued by City of Kitchener by-law,
- 3 issued by City of Waterloo by-law, and
- 1 issued by Waterloo Region Police Services in the Township of Wilmot.

Region of Waterloo by-law also issued a ticket for a business failing to adhere to the face covering by-law, with total payable of 240 dollars.



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I will now turn things over to Dr. Julie Emili, Associate Medical Officer of Health, who has an update on our COVID-19 situation.

Update from Dr. Emili.

Thank you Dr. Emili. Deputy Hilton will now speak more to the vaccine rollout and recent provincial updates regarding Delta variant hot spots.

Update from Deputy Hilton.

We are fortunate today to hear from our guest, Lee Fairclough, President of St. Mary's General Hospital, and Hospital Lead for Waterloo-Wellington. Today just happens to be Red Day for St. Mary's General Hospital Foundation in support of heart health. Lee also has an important perspective on the re-opening in our community and the situation in our hospitals. Over to you Lee.

Update from Lee Fairclough.

Thank you, Lee.

Media Q&A

We will now take media questions.

Extro

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