



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman May 14, 2021

Welcome

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to our community update.

I am pleased to report another milestone in our vaccine rollout this week. We expanded pre-registration to everyone age 12 and older. More than 44 percent of our eligible population has now received at least one dose. Deputy Shirley Hilton will speak more to our progress in her update.

National Nursing Week

This week, during National Nursing Week, we honour the nurses in our community. We interact with nurses in many roles and many ways throughout our lives, but particularly during this pandemic.

Nurses guide us through fears and concerns.

They give us hope when administering the vaccine.

They provide comfort at testing clinics.

They take care of our loved ones in hospital.

They work to protect us.

Apart from the pandemic, they are there for us during some of the biggest moments in our lives.

And they serve us with expertise, patience, and kindness.

I am pleased to welcome three of our Regional nurses here today. I want to be very conscious of their time since they've sat through this update and have very busy schedules.



SPEAKING NOTES

Coty Snider, a Public Health Nurse with the Infection Disease and Tuberculosis Control Program.

Teri Sousa, a Public Health Nurse with the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program.

And Marie Belanger, the Director of Care at Sunnyside Home, the Region's long term care home.

Welcome to all of you.

You all contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community, but in different ways. Would each of you like to share with us a little bit about your role, and how your work has changed during the pandemic?

Thanks to all of you for everything you do. We will now let you get back to your work. Thanks again for joining us.

Enforcement

I will now provide an update on the 12 enforcement actions since the last media update. There were 11 charges for the reporting period May 6 to May 12, with 1 additional charge from the previous reporting period.

- Grand River Transit issued 2 tickets for failing to wear a mask – total payable is \$240 each
- Region of Waterloo By-Law issued 1 ticket at BRLM Sports Group/FC Berlin, to an individual for failing to wear a mask – total payable is \$240



SPEAKING NOTES

- The following tickets were issued with total payable of \$880 each:
 - Waterloo Regional Police Services issued 2 tickets to individuals at Victoria Park for gathering
 - City of Kitchener By-Law issued 2 tickets for gatherings at private residences
 - City of Waterloo By-Law issued 3 tickets for gatherings at private residences
 - City of Waterloo By-Law issued 2 tickets for demonstrations this past Sunday

As we work towards community immunization, we continue to require public health measures in order to save lives. I want to thank the majority of Waterloo Region residents for following these laws and bylaws, and thinking about the impact they may have on other members of their community.

At the same time, it is disappointing to see some of the large gatherings that have occurred in flagrant disregard of public health measures, especially as fellow community members have had to celebrate Eid, Mothers Day, Police Week and Nursing Week virtually. It is particularly offensive when these gatherings amplify hateful and discriminatory messages.

Kindness

It is on this note that I offer an additional reminder on the importance of kindness, whether towards a loved one, a co-worker, a neighbour, or a stranger. We don't always know how the pandemic effects one another. Everyone has experience the pandemic differently. We need to be mindful of the mental health and wellbeing of others. We've gone through so much and accomplished a great deal as a community. Let's continue to be kind.



SPEAKING NOTES

I will now invite Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang to provide her weekly update.

Update from Dr. Wang.

Now we will move on to our weekly update from Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton.

Update from Deputy Chief Hilton.

Media Q&A

We will now open it up to media questions.

Extro

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