



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 media briefing notes – Chair Karen Redman

January 29, 2021

Welcome

Welcome everyone to this week's community update.

This morning, we will get our weekly update from Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang and Vaccine Task Force Chair, Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton, and today we welcome guest Helen Chimirri-Russell, the Region's Director of Cultural Services.

Board of Health Advocacy

At this week's Board of Health meeting Council passed a unanimous motion calling on the province to designate Waterloo Region as a High Priority Community.

This is a formal request for the province to provide additional pandemic supports to marginalized communities in Waterloo Region.

In November, Region of Waterloo Public Health released data demonstrating the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on Black and racialized community members, and those living with low-income.

We know that COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted many people in our community. Support from the Province's High Priority Communities Strategy would help us implement a range of interventions to slow transmission in those higher risk communities and protect our most vulnerable.

One action recommended by residents was to provide a safe, cost-free place to isolate from household members to prevent the spread of COVID-



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19. Since then, Public Health has launched an isolation program funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada to provide a safe place for these community members to isolate. The funding allows Public Health to operate a 54-room program, for a period of up to 15 months. Community partners make referrals through Public Health's case and contact management process.

Public Health is also working closely with health system partners to identify and deploy additional supports to these communities, including mobile testing.

Being designated a high priority community would:

- provide much-needed provincial resources to expedite deployment of supports – as has been done in other communities across Ontario including:
- Access to funds to support community agencies and partners to deliver tailored community outreach and engagement and targeted and culturally appropriate communications
- Increased access to testing, including more locations tailored to the unique needs to the community

Enforcement Update

This update is from January 21 to 27 and includes actions from our local enforcement partners.

There have been 15 enforcement actions since the last media update

- 13 for the reporting period Jan 21 to Jan 27
- 2 charge was from the previous reporting period, but were not reported at the time of the update



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- Regional By-Law issued 9 Part III Summons for a gathering at Trinity Bible Chapel this past weekend
 - 6 charges were issued to the church Elders (including the pastor) for hosting a gathering exceeding the number permitted
 - 1 charge was to the Corporation for organizing a gathering exceeding the number permitted
 - 2 individuals were charged for attending the gathering
 - The fines are to be determined in court
- We are aware that the Ontario Superior Court of Justice made a finding of contempt yesterday against Trinity Bible Chapel and the other named respondents. We are satisfied with this outcome but cannot comment further since the sentencing phase of the contempt proceeding is still pending before the Court.
- City of Waterloo by-law issued 3 tickets at three separate private residences for gatherings. Total payable is \$880.00 for each ticket.
- 1 tickets was issued by Corporate Security for failure to wear a face-covering under the Code of Use By-law. Total payable is \$240.00
- City of Cambridge by-law issued 2 tickets
 - 1 was issued at a private residence for gathering. Total payable is \$880.00.
 - 1 was issued at to an individual charged under the EMPCA Stay at Home Order. Total payable is \$880.00.

In response to Council's advocacy in December 2020 for additional enforcement from the province, we expect additional enforcement from



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Province will be coming to Waterloo Region and more details will be announced by the province this afternoon.

Dr. Wang's COVID-19 public health update

Deputy Hilton's Vaccine Task Force update

Special Guest

I'd like to introduce Helen Chimirri-Russell, the Region of Waterloo's Director of Cultural Services, who is going to give us an update on Family Literacy Week and how cultural services are supporting our community through the pandemic.