



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 Community Update – Karen Redman Speaking Notes December 11, 2020

COVID-19 vaccination task force

As Regional Chair I declared a State of Emergency on March 25, 2020 under the Municipal Emergency Management Act. This declaration remains in full force and effect and under this Act I have initiated the creation of a Vaccine Distribution Task Force that will be lead by Waterloo Regional Police Services Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton. Thank you to Chief Larkin and the Waterloo Region Police Service for your collaboration and partnership and to Deputy Chief Hilton for accepting this task. In addition to Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang I welcome Deputy Hilton to our panel this morning.

On a call with the Premier earlier this week, he and General Hillier discussed Ontario's lead in the COVID-19 vaccine distribution and what will be the largest logistical undertaking in our country in the last generation.

The Waterloo Region Vaccine Distribution Task Force will ensure an efficient, equitable plan is in place for delivery of the immunization program starting with our high risk populations as determined by the Government of Canada.

It will bring together a number of community partners and will take guidance from the Provincial task force in the planning and delivery of the immunization program across Waterloo Region, including:

- Bruce Lauckner, Region of Waterloo CAO
- Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton, Waterloo Regional Police Service



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- Richard Hepditch, Waterloo Fire Chief
- Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Region of Waterloo Medical Officer of Health
- Karen Quigley-Hobbs, Director Infectious Diseases, Sexual Health and Harm Reduction, Region of Waterloo
- Dr. Sharon Bal, Primary Care Physician Lead
- Inspector Jennifer Davis, Waterloo Region Police Services
- Nicolaas Jonkman, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Advisor, Waterloo Regional Police Service
- Stephen VanValkenburg, Chief of Region of Waterloo Paramedics
- Ron Gagnon, President and CEO Grand River Hospital
- Karyn Lumsden, Vice President, Home and Community Care, Waterloo Wellington LHIN
- Vickie Murray, Director of Pharmacy of GRH and St. Mary's
- Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Commissioner Community Services, Region of Waterloo

Regional budget public input meeting

The Region has been working diligently on our Budget Plan for Beyond COVID-19 for the last few months. Our online public input page is live and we continue to welcome your comments there on engagewr.ca

Next Wednesday, December 16 is the public input meeting for budget. It will be webcast live on our website, just like council meetings, starting at 6 p.m. If you'd like to participate as a delegation, you can register to take part on the Region's website.

The Budget Plan takes into consideration that more than 600,000 people from across our community have been impacted by the pandemic.



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Enforcement Update

This week's Regional enforcement update for December 3 to December 9 includes tickets issued under the Region's Code of Use Bylaw that requires face coverings on our local public transit system. These are some of the first tickets issued on our transit system and the increase in enforcement comes after the last few weeks where we have shifted our focus from education to also include enforcement.

This week 10 tickets were issued by our enforcement partners including:

- 4 by the City of Waterloo Bylaw, all were \$880 tickets for Failing to Obey an Order
 - 3 to private residences for exceeding gathering limits
 - 1 to Sushi 99 in Waterloo for exceeding capacity limits and logs not up being maintained
- 1 by the City of Kitchener, \$880 ticket for Failing to Obey and Order, to a private residence for exceeding gathering limits
- 1 by Region of Waterloo Public Health, \$880 ticket for Failing to Obey an Order to LA Fitness in Cambridge for exceeding capacity limits
- 4 by Grand River Transit, \$240 fine for Failure to wear a mask, under the Region's Code of Use Bylaw

Hanukkah

Hanukkah started last night, the first of the eight-day Jewish holiday, also known as the Festival of Lights. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all those who celebrate the holiday a safe and happy Hanukkah, even though your celebrations have to look a little



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different this year. When you are travelling past the Region's Headquarters on Frederick Street or the Waterloo Regional Museum, keep an eye out for the large Menorahs that will bring light to our Region during Hanukkah. Thank you to Rabbi Moshe Goldman for helping the Region facilitate the placement of these Menorah's across our Region this year.

Community Update Guest Introduction

Welcome Dr. Wang our Medical Officer of Health to deliver this week's update.