



# **SPEAKING NOTES**

## **COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman May 21, 2021**

### **Welcome**

Good morning everyone, and welcome to the community update.

I want to start this week by sharing a significant milestone for all 630,000 residents in Waterloo Region. A milestone that reflects our willingness to work towards community immunity. More than fifty percent of the eligible population in our community has now received at least one dose of the vaccine. That's over two hundred and fifty thousand people. This tells us that our collective efforts are working. Our mobile clinics, our vaccine clinics, pharmacies and doctor's offices, are all working together to administer shots, while we address vaccine questions and concerns.

We have more work to do to ensure all of our community can be vaccinated in a timely manner. Dr. Kelly Grindrod from the University of Waterloo's School of Pharmacy is here today to discuss vaccines – we look forward to hearing from her.

As a community, we need to keep looking forward. With this week's milestone in the vaccine rollout and a gradual re-opening starting in a few days, our hope continues to strengthen. The longer we keep following health and safety measures, the sooner we will be able to enjoy more activities together in larger groups.

For more on the importance of continuing to follow these measures as we head into the long weekend, here is Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang.

**Update from Dr. Wang.**



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Thank you Dr. Wang, for your update, and congratulations on your recognition earlier this week. Dr. Wang received the honour of the Prayer Shawl at the Interfaith Community Breakfast.

Also this week, in honour of Personal Support Worker Day and National Public Works Week, I want to give special thanks to all Regional staff working in these areas for providing critical services to our community.

We will now move on to our weekly vaccine update. This week, from Connie MacDonald, Chief Communications and Strategy Officer at the Region of Waterloo.

## **Update from Connie MacDonald.**

I would now like to welcome Dr. Kelly Grindrod, Associate Professor, at the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy, who is here to help address the latest vaccine questions and concerns.

## **Update from Dr. Kelly Gindrod.**

## **Enforcement**

As we work towards re-opening, education and enforcement of provincial laws and local bylaws continues. There have been 12 enforcement actions since the last media update, 7 from May 13 to May 19, and 5 from the previous reporting period.

There were 2 tickets issued for failing to wear a mask, each with a total payable of \$240. 1 ticket was issued by Grand River Transit at Fairway Terminal, the other was issued by Corporate Security at 150 Main Street.



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There were also several tickets issues for gatherings at private residences, all with total payables of \$880 each.

7 were issued by City of Kitchener Bylaw, 2 by City of Waterloo by-law, and 1 by Waterloo Regional Police Service.

## **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.