



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman June 4, 2021

Welcome

Good morning everyone, and welcome to the community update.

I will speak to the vaccine rollout in a moment. First, I want to take a moment to remember the 215 children found at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops this week. At two fifteen this afternoon, Grand River Transit will pause bus and ION train service for two minutes and 15 seconds and many Regional staff will do the same, reflecting on this tragedy as a show of respect for the young lives that were lost.

As we mourn the children lost, we must continue the important work of advancing concrete calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report. The children, and all survivors and their families, will remain in the forefront as we move forward with our work.

This work will ensure that all of our services are accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to everyone in the community. During this month, we pledge our commitment to continue making progress, particularly as we mark Pride month, Indigenous History Month, and National AccessAbility Week.

Vaccine rollout

This week in the vaccine rollout, we continued to make progress at a steady pace. With more than 62 per cent of our eligible population now having received at least one dose of the vaccine, we are starting to accelerate second doses for certain priority groups, including health care workers and people who are 80 years and older. Deputy Hilton will now share a vaccine update.



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Update from Deputy Hilton.

Thank you, Deputy Hilton. We have seen great progress in our fight against COVID-19 in Waterloo Region, but we know that now is not the time to let our guard down. As the Province announced this week, online learning will continue in order to reduce the risks. We must also continue to follow public health guidance so that we can continue down this path. This path will get us to the patios and the beaches this summer, and eventually to a place where we can physically embrace each other without fear. Dr. Wang will now speak to the COVID-19 situation in Waterloo Region and the measures we must keep following to recover from the pandemic.

Update from Dr. Wang.

Enforcement

Thank you Dr. Wang. When it comes to following public health guidelines, enforcement continues to be a tool used in cases where education is not effective. There have been 55 enforcement actions since the last media update, 18 from May 27 to June 2, and 37 from the previous reporting period.

There were 30 tickets issued under the Reopening Ontario Act or Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, each with a total payable of \$880:

- 3 were issued by Waterloo Region Police Services as a result of a demonstration in Waterloo Town Square on May 8.
- 19 were issued by Waterloo Region Police Services as a result of a demonstration in Waterloo Town Square on May 9.
- 1 was issued by City of Cambridge by-law for a private gathering.



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- 1 was issued by City of Kitchener by-law for a private gathering.
- 6 was issued by City of Waterloo by-law for private gatherings.

There were 20 summons to appear in court issued by Waterloo Region Police Services under the Reopening Ontario Act and Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, with fines to be determined.

Township of Wilmot by-law issued 2 summons to appear in court under the Reopening Ontario Act as a result of a May 8th rally.

There were two tickets issued for failing to wear a mask, each with total payable of \$240. One was issued by corporate security at 150 Weber Street East, the other at Ainslie Terminal by Grand River Transit.

Region of Waterloo Public Health issued 1 ticket for failing to obey a continued order to Tres Chiles, Kitchener, with total payable of \$880.

Media Q&A

We will now take media questions.

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