



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman

February 26, 2021

Welcome

Welcome everyone to this week's community update.

Vaccine announcements

It's been a busy week for vaccine announcements. Which is exactly what we like to see.

The Province released new details about priority groups eligible for vaccination in Phase 1, and more specific prioritization of health care workers. They also announced adults 80 and older are now eligible for vaccine in Phase 1.

The Region of Waterloo launched a Phase 1 pre-registration system for COVID-19 vaccinations on Wednesday. Those in Phase 1, including Adults 80+, are encouraged to register to be contacted for a vaccine appointment. Appointments are for as early as this week, and will continue based on vaccine availability.

And yesterday we put a call out for COVID-19 immunization clinic volunteers for non-medical roles.

Volunteers will not only have an opportunity to assist our community in controlling the spread of COVID-19 but will also gain knowledge and experience in large-scale public health immunization clinics.

For more information on any of these topics, you can visit the Region's website or call our contact centre at 519-575-4400.



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Last week we also hosted one of our first stakeholder information sessions on the Vaccine roll out organized by the Community Engagement Working Group of the Vaccine Distribution Task Force.

The purpose of this webinar was to provide information on COVID-19 vaccines, vaccine rollout in Waterloo region including which priority group is planned to receive vaccines when, the available communications resources and provide answers to many of the questions that we have heard from the community related to the vaccine and rollout.

A lot of really great information was shared and we touched on issues of equity and anti-racism in vaccine distribution and this is available on youtube as a resource and can be found on the Region's Vaccine Distribution Task Force website under "Related Links"

Enforcement update

This update is from February 18 to the 24 and includes actions from our local enforcement partners.

There have been five enforcement actions since the last media update

- 1 for the reporting period Feb 18 to Feb 24
- 4 charges are from the previous reporting period, but were not reported at the time of the update
- GRT Security issued 1 ticket, at the Ainslie Terminal, for Failing to Comply with the Face Covering By-Law - \$240 fine.
- Region of Waterloo Security issued 3 tickets at 140 Weber St E (Waterloo Region Housing) for Failing to comply with the Face Covering by-law - \$240 fine each.



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- City of Kitchener By-Law issued 1 ticket for Failing to comply with a continued Order, at a private residence or a gathering, under the Re-opening Ontario Act - Total payable is \$880.

Q&A

****If asked... Enforcement activity was down, likely due to the lifting of the Stay At Home Order requirements and re-entering the Framework.***

Now we will move on to our weekly update from medical officer of health Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang and Vaccine Task Force Chair, Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton.

Dr. Wang's COVID-19 public health update

Deputy Hilton's Vaccine Task Force update