Welcome

Good morning everyone, and welcome to the final COVID-19 Community Update.

Today, all seven local mayors are here to reflect on the last two years and offer their hopes for the future.

Two years ago, the Region started this weekly briefing to share timely information with the community about our response to the pandemic. What started in the media room at Regional headquarters, turned into zoom calls from our homes as we learned more about the virus.

We committed to informing all residents about what they needed to know, to keep themselves, their families and communities safe.

They also heard stories of how the community was responding to the pandemic, and all the amazing things people were doing to help others get through a hard time.

I would like to thank all the community guests and media partners who have been involved in this weekly update. You provided insight, expertise and credible information for the community. Thank you, for your tireless dedication in serving Waterloo Region.

I also want to thank the residents who served their community during this time. We have all experienced the pandemic in different ways. I think particularly of the bus drivers who kept residents moving; grocery store staff
who kept shelves stocked with food; snowplough drivers who kept our roads safe to drive on; and the healthcare workers who stood on the frontlines. To everyone who helped Waterloo Region get to this point, thank you. This community is truly unlike any other.

These past two years have not been without significant sacrifice and hardship. COVID-19 has tragically taken the lives of 401 people in Waterloo Region. I would like to extend my deepest condolences and sympathies to everyone who lost a loved one to this disease.

As we learn to manage the virus and live with it long-term, please continue to show kindness and compassion. We are all in the same storm, but in different boats, experiencing the pandemic differently.

We have gotten this far together, and only together, can we continue to move forward.

There are no enforcement actions to report.

I will now pass it to our Medical Officer of Health Dr. Wang.

**Update from Dr. Wang.**

Thank you, Dr. Wang.

David Aoki, Director of Infectious Diseases and Chief Nursing Officer, will now provide an update on the vaccine roll-out.

**Update from David.**

Thank you, David.

**Update from mayors.**
I am now excited to have a conversation with the region’s seven mayors about how local municipalities managed COVID-19, and how we can continue to move forward together.

While all seven municipalities are unique, we all worked together to ensure a coordinated response for the wellbeing of all 630,000 residents of Waterloo Region.

1. Mayor McGarry

We will begin with Mayor McGarry in Cambridge. Welcome Mayor McGarry.

What can we do to help our community heal economically and emotionally?

2. Mayor Vrbanovic

Thank you Mayor McGarry.

Next I would like to welcome Mayor Vrbanovic from Kitchener. Welcome Mayor Vrbanovic.

As the pandemic wanes, how can we move towards a new normal?

3. Mayor Foxton

Thank you Mayor Vrbanovic.

Up next, I would like to welcome Mayor Foxton from North Dumfries. Good morning Mayor Foxton.

What were some of the changes that happened in North Dumfries over the last two years that will continue post-pandemic?
4. Mayor Jaworsky

Thank you Mayor Foxton.

From the City of Waterloo, I would now like to bring in Mayor Jaworsky. Hello Mayor Jaworsky.

We saw tremendous community spirit emerge during the pandemic, with neighbours helping neighbours. Can you talk to us about the volunteer spirit we all witnessed over the last two years?

5. Mayor Nowak

Thank you Mayor Jaworsky.

From Wellesley, I would like to welcome Mayor Nowak.

What were the highlights of your community's response to the pandemic?

6. Mayor Armstrong

Thank you Mayor Nowak.

Next, I would like to welcome Mayor Armstrong from the Township of Wilmot.

What aspects of municipal operations do you see as having strengthened as a result of the pandemic and what has been the impact the pandemic has had on your corporate goals for community cohesion?

7. Mayor Shantz
Thank you Mayor Armstrong.

Finally, I am happy to have Mayor Shantz from Woolwich Township with us. Good morning Mayor Shantz.

What is a positive outcome, as a result of the pandemic, that has strengthened your community as a whole?

**Media Q&A**

Thank you everyone. We will now open it up to questions from media.

**Extro**

Thank you everyone for joining us today. Have a safe weekend.