Welcome

Good morning everyone, and welcome to this week’s community update. This week, I am happy to welcome back Lee Fairclough, President of St. Mary’s General Hospital to talk about the latest testing and hospital updates.

As we enjoy the holiday season, I want to thank everyone for celebrating safely.

I know it has been unusual having to alter holiday plans and keep gatherings small, so that vulnerable family members, neighbours and the community can stay safe.

Thank you for taking COVID-19 seriously, and doing your part to manage the pandemic the best way you can.

We are continuing to ensure everyone who is eligible has access to a COVID-19 vaccine.

Starting Sunday, the Canadian Red Cross is helping to vaccinate even more residents with a third dose at 99 Regina Street in Waterloo during a six-day long clinic. This is in addition to the many other clinics and participating businesses helping to vaccinate people.

Partnerships like these allow us to make vaccine as available as possible to keep the community healthy.

Many have made getting vaccinated part of their holiday plans. This could not be possible without the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who staff
regional vaccination clinics. We are so grateful for those who are giving up personal family time so people can get vaccinated. We could not do this without you.

There is one enforcement action to report since the last update.

Region of Waterloo Security issued one ticket at a Waterloo Region Housing facility for failing to comply with the Face Covering By-Law. This carries a fine of 240 dollars.

I will now pass it to our Associate Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Rabia Bana.

**Update from Dr. Bana.**

Thank you, Dr. Bana.

Director of Regional Vaccine Services, Vickie Murray, will now speak to the vaccine roll-out. Good morning Vickie.

**Update from Vickie Murray.**

Thank you, Vickie.

We will now hear from this week’s guest, Lee Fairclough from St. Mary’s Hospital. Hi Lee.

**Update from Lee.**

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

**Media Q&A**

**Extro**
Thank you everyone for joining us today. Have a safe weekend and a Happy New Year!