



# **SPEAKING NOTES**

## **COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman May 7, 2021**

### **Welcome**

Good morning everyone, and welcome to this week's community update.

### **Vaccine rollout**

This week, we were pleased to see the Province expand pre-registration due to an expected increase in vaccine supply. We continue to prioritize areas in Waterloo Region that have been hardest hit by COVID-19 – this week expanding eligibility to anyone 18 or older in high priority neighbourhoods.

We also continue to expand pre-registration for more groups in Waterloo Region. This week, all adults age 50 and older became eligible to pre-register for the vaccine, as more people who have pre-registered are contacted to book their shot.

### **Rapid testing**

As the vaccine rollout continues, it is still important to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community. The StaySafe rapid screening pilot program aims to stop the virus from spreading in workplaces and since its launch in mid April, it has already given out one hundred and twenty thousand rapid tests to more than fifteen hundred businesses. This partnership between the federal and provincial governments, Communitech, local Chambers of Commerce, and the Region, is a model that may be followed across the country. On top of the mobile testing clinics, businesses can also pick up a box of tests to use at their place of work, and a guide is available to help workplaces put a regular testing process in place.



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## **Mental Health Week**

While the vaccine continues to strengthen hope that we can soon embrace friends and family without fear, we must also recognize that the current state continues to take a toll on the mental health of many in our community.

This week is mental health week, and it is important to acknowledge the challenges and feelings of those who are struggling. All of us experience the pandemic in different ways.

Here today to speak to this topic is Helen Fishburn, CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association in Waterloo Wellington. CMHA Waterloo Wellington is the largest CMHA in Canada, and one of the only places in Ontario to have “one door” into mental health, addictions and crisis services to make it easy for people to reach out.

If you know of someone who is struggling, please reach out in a safe way. Don't underestimate the difference that a small gesture can make.

## **Enforcement update**

I will now provide an update on enforcement.

There have been 26 enforcement actions since the last media update. There were 15 charges for the reporting period April 29 to May 5. There were also 11 charges from the previous reporting period.

- Region of Waterloo Bylaw issued 6 Summons's to appear in court to Trinity Bible Chapel, 1 to the church and 5 to the church Elders, for Failing to Comply with a Continued Order, for organizing a gathering. Fines to be determined by the court.
- Region of Waterloo Public Health issued a Summons to appear in court to Curves and Contours Body Sculpting, Waterloo, for Failing to Comply with a Continued Order, for continuing to remain open to clients. Fines to be determined by the court.



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- Waterloo Regional Police Services issued 3 tickets, for Failing to Comply, obstructing a person performing duty in accordance with a continued Order– total payable is \$880 each
- City of Cambridge By-Law issued 1 ticket for a gathering at a private residence– total payable is \$880
- City of Kitchener By-Law issued 4 tickets for gatherings at private residences– total payable is \$880 each
- City of Waterloo By-Law issued 10 tickets for gatherings at private residences– total payable is \$880 each
- Corporate Security issued 1 ticket at 143 Concession Street (Waterloo Region Housing) for Failing to Comply with the Face Covering by-law – \$240 fine

Now we will move on to our weekly update from Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang.

## **Update from Dr. Wang.**

Now we will move on to our weekly update from Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton.

## **Update from Deputy Chief Hilton.**

I will now turn it over to this week's guest, Helen Fishburn, CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association of Waterloo Wellington.

## **Update from Helen Fishburn**

## **Extro**

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