



# Children and Family Services Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

**Location:** Zoom  
**Date:** Thursday, February 4, 2021  
**Time:** 12:00pm to 1:00pm

## Agenda & Notes

| Agenda Item                       | Notes  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Emergency Child Care (ECC)</b> | ECC ends tomorrow. Approximately 251 children received ECC.  |
| <b>Child Welfare</b>              | <p>No COVID-19 positive families have yet requested care for their children.</p> <p>Data shows no increase in harm/injuries in children under 5. Currently working to effectively assess how virtual services affect child welfare outcomes.</p>   |
| <b>Online Learning</b>            | <p>Waterloo Region will return to in-person learning on Monday. School boards have been proactive in preparing for the students' return with the needed requirements in place, and are excited for in-person learning.</p> <p>More communication to families will come out today and/or tomorrow to facilitate the return. School boards will continue to make the best use of available resources to enable staff to reach out and connect with learners who have chosen to continue with online learning.</p> <p>In Waterloo Region, masks are mandatory for students grade 1 to 12, and recommended for JK/SK. Exceptions are made for situations where human rights are involved, and for conscientious objectors, distanced learning is recommended. There has also been increased guidance to help prevent congregating before/during/after school.</p> <p>No confirmed information re: March Break.</p> |



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| <b>Safe Isolation Site (SIS)</b> | <p>Continue to see a steady increase in referrals to the sites. Have over 30 clients who have used a SIS. Most referrals come from Public Health, so will do a more focused outreach to community partners to help increase referrals for people who would benefit from SIS. For more information about SIS or if you know someone who may benefit from SIS, please email: <a href="mailto:safeisolation@regionofwaterloo.ca">safeisolation@regionofwaterloo.ca</a>.</p> <p>Carizon has been helping support people making use of SIS, as a 14-day isolation away from friends and family has a significant mental toll. Support includes navigating people in the hotels, as well as supporting the rest of the family back home. Reach out to <a href="#">Debbie</a> if you would like to be involved in this work.</p> <p>Peel Region has reported that they are not reaching their target population with the SIS sites. Public Health/Carizon be looking into why that is, so that any adjustments can be made to ensure the right populations are reached in Waterloo Region. Currently in the process of determining what potential barriers might exist.</p> |
| <b>Vaccination Roll Out</b>      | <p>Vaccine availability is less than what was initially anticipated, and adjustments need to be made as a result. Click <a href="#">here</a> to view a placemat that outlines the current vaccination rollout plan.</p> <p>At this point, waiting for more supplies to be available for vaccine distribution. Work is being done to define essential workers and in what priority order they will be vaccinated. When adults are vaccinated, it will be from oldest to youngest. The current available vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) have not been approved for children under 16, unless they're an otherwise priority population.</p> <p>Future messaging will revolve around vaccine confidence—helping priority populations to be vaccine ready. Public Health is also exploring options to assess how well efforts to reach priority populations is working.</p> <p>To access multi-language vaccine facts sheets, as developed by OCASI, please click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>  |
| <b>211</b>                       | <p>211 Ontario will be offering a workshop to professionals in Waterloo Region regarding the ways in which 211 can best help connect community members to services offered. United Way will be sending invitations to CYPT and other groups. This will be an opportunity for organizations to grow awareness of 211, ask questions, and share any experiences/concerns with the database. Details will be provided when available, and PWG members can circulate as they see fit.</p>  |



# Children and Youth Planning Table

of Waterloo Region

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| <b>Member Updates/ Other</b> | Please click <a href="#">here</a> to view the Best Practices for Staff Wellbeing resource, as provided by the Waterloo Region Family Network Partnership group. |
| <b>Next Steps</b>            | Next meeting: February 18, 12pm to 1pm  |