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July 29, 2020

From the Office of Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health

Risk management advised in response to rise in cases

Southwestern Public Health is advising the community to continue to follow public health measures in response to a recent increase in cases across the region. Our team is conducting a thorough contact tracing process to manage and contain these cases. Our current cases range from individuals, to households, to workplaces. They are not all are connected to one specific event or source of transmission.

This underscores the importance of following public health advice for physical distancing, wearing a face covering when you cannot physically distance, keeping your hands and high-touch surfaces clean, and only having close contact with people in your social circle (maximum of 10). I cannot stress this enough.

The community is also reminded of the [Class Order Section 22](#) issued on July 23 that requires individuals to [self-isolate](#) if asked to by public health. This is an enforceable directive. Self-isolation means you must stay home for a full 14 days and cannot leave for any reason, including grocery shopping or running errands. Please ask family or neighbours to drop off items at your doorstep and do not open the door to greet them.

I want to caution speculation for where transmission is taking place. This virus can be anywhere. It is everyone's collective responsibility to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Southwestern Public Health has a responsibility and obligation to respect the privacy and identity of individuals. We also have a responsibility to protect the community from the spread of COVID-19. As such, we provide age range, gender and municipality for our cases to help inform the community about the number of cases and risks we are managing.

Thank you,

Dr. Joyce Lock
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