

Save the Region of Waterloo Wastewater Surveillance Program

Wastewater Surveillance News Articles:

1. *Province shutting down wastewater surveillance in Waterloo Region*, CTV News Kitchener, June 6, 2024. <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/province-shutting-down-wastewater-surveillance-in-waterloo-region-1.6917031>
2. *Cancelling Ontario's waste-water program is an affront to science and common sense*, TVO Today, June 7, 2024. <https://www.tvo.org/article/cancelling-ontarios-waste-water-program-is-an-affront-to-science-and-common-sense>
3. *Peterborough health unit offers to cover wastewater surveillance costs after Ontario ends program*, Global News, June 14, 2024. <https://globalnews.ca/news/10566687/peterborough-health-unit-wastewater-surveillance-costs-ontario-ends-program/>
4. *Ontario's wastewater testing for disease must expand, not shrink*, Ottawa Citizen, June 17, 2024. <https://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/ontarios-wastewater-testing-for-disease-must-expand-not-shrink-opinion>

COVID-19 Information:

1. *COVID-19 Leaves Its Mark on the Brain. Significant Drops in IQ Scores Are Noted*, Scientific American, March 13, 2024. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/covid-19-leaves-its-mark-on-the-brain-significant-drops-in-iq-scores-are/>
2. *COVID-19 Resources Canada*: The information from COVID-19 Resources Canada will help you understand why the COVID-19 pandemic is not over and why it is still causing significant harm in Canada. I encourage you to check out the Hazard Index and the Excess Deaths sections. With reduced and underreporting about the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Tara Moriarty from the University of Toronto uses data from the Public Health Agency of Canada and other provinces to model and estimate current rates of infections, deaths, excess deaths, and disability in every province on a bi-weekly schedule. <https://covid19resources.ca/datadiscussions/>

For example, between June 8-21st, 2024, in Ontario, about 1 of every 164 people is infected (~43,200 – 92,600 infections). During this period, compared to the lowest point in the COVID-19 pandemic, infections are 3.3 times higher, Long COVID estimates are 2.1 times higher, hospitalizations and ICU admissions are 4.2 times higher, and deaths are 2.6 times higher. <https://covid19resources.ca/covid-hazard-index/>

3. *Experiences of Canadians with long-term symptoms following COVID-19*, December 8, 2023. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2023001/article/00015-eng.htm#>

4. *Verified: COVID-19 Infection Increases Diabetes Risk, Cedars Sinai*, February 14, 2023.
<https://www.cedars-sinai.org/newsroom/verified-covid-19-infection-increases-diabetes-risk/>
5. COVID, heart disease and stroke, April 17, 2023.
<https://www.heartandstroke.ca/articles/coronavirus-heart-disease-and-stroke>

Comments Collected From Region of Waterloo Residents:

“Wastewater surveillance helps me use risk-based assessments to protect my young kids. It lets me know when there’s a higher risk of covid in our community, so we can avoid crowded places and activities to keep safe. It’s given us a sense of normalcy, without it I doubt we would be participating in community activities as often.” – Anonymous

“[Wastewater surveillance] helped me stay safe when planning outings with friends and family. When signals were very low, I would chance an indoor setting if there weren’t too many people in a large space. High signals meant take-out and outdoor visits. I have not had Covid.” – Anonymous

“The information we get from the wastewater funding in Ontario is and has been crucial to individuals and systems of care in Ontario now and in the future. Please advocate and work towards replicating or continuing the wastewater surveillance municipally or regionally in lieu of this decision to cut funding in Ontario. We need wastewater monitoring in Waterloo Region to continue.” – Anonymous