

# Peel Public Health communications toolkit

Issue #10 | March 31, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to reach your communities to ensure residents have greater access to health services and supports during the pandemic.

Please share the contents of this toolkit and spread the word across our community about staying safe amidst COVID-19. Included are key messages you can tailor, translate, or cut and paste into your newsletters and emails, and social media to share through your channels.

## Key updates at a glance

- Peel residents 65 years and older are now eligible to book vaccine appointments at hospital vaccination clinics in Peel. [Read more.](#)
- Seniors who require help to get to their vaccine appointment can call TransHelp at: **905-791-1015** at least 48 hours before the scheduled appointment.
- Certain Faith Leaders are now eligible to be vaccinated.
- Have an upcoming religious observance? See the Public Health guidelines on how to mark the occasion safely.
- As of March 26 - **128, 550** doses have been administered. This week we are expecting about 56,160 doses in the system. View the [COVID-19 vaccine data dashboard](#).
- Do not go to a local clinic unless you have a COVID-19 vaccine appointment. Check if it is your turn at: [Priority Groups for Vaccination page](#).
- Read the AstraZeneca update.
- For the most up to date information, visit the Region of [COVID-19 vaccine](#) and sign up for the [Region's Connect to Peel newsletter](#) to get email updates.

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## Vaccine update

Did you receive your vaccine? Share your story with a selfie and the hashtag #gotmyvax

### Peel residents 65 years and older can now book their vaccine appointments

Peel residents 65 years and older are now eligible to book vaccine appointments at hospital vaccination clinics in Peel. When the provincial booking system is ready, Public Health Vaccination Clinics will also accept this group for vaccination.

Access to booking systems for both Public Health Vaccination Clinics and hospital clinics is available on the Region of Peel [website](#).

Vaccine clinics in Peel region are also now taking bookings for the following groups who wish to receive the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Peel seniors 70 years and older
- Eligible Health Care Workers - [Check eligibility](#) for a more detailed list of who falls within that group
- Indigenous Adults 18 years and older.

[Book your appointment online](#). Residents without internet access who need assistance booking can call the Region of Peel COVID-19 Vaccination Line at **905-791-5202** (open 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week).

Information on how to prepare for an appointment and what to expect at a clinics is available at [peelregion.ca/COVID19vaccine](https://peelregion.ca/COVID19vaccine). This is a one-stop spot for all residents of Peel to access vaccine at the clinic of their choice when it's their turn.

**[Tweet:](#)** Another step forward! Residents 65+ can now book a limited number of COVID-19 vaccine appointments only at [@OslerHealth](#) and [@THP\\_hospital](#) clinics. Please spread the word and share with family, friends and anyone who is eligible.



## Vaccination for faith leaders

In alignment with the province's framework for COVID-19 vaccine prioritization, eligible Faith Leaders have been prioritized to receive their COVID-19 immunizations.

Faith leaders who have regular, in-person close contact with persons and families in the following circumstances have also been prioritized:

- End of life care
- Care of the deceased, funerals, bathing, or other ceremony with direct contact with deceased persons
- Home visits to unwell persons
- Pastoral care in hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes, or other vulnerable settings.

You will have the choice to attend a Peel Public Health Vaccination Clinic or a clinic at one of the area hospitals. All clinics are by appointment only. [Booking an appointment online](#) is the fastest way to book.

### Required proof of eligibility

Eligible faith leaders must bring the following documents to their vaccination clinic appointment:

- Government issued photo identification (e.g., driver's license, health card)
- A completed attestation form
- One supporting document that shows they are an active faith leader (e.g., business card, letter from organization, etc.)

Without proof of eligibility (as outlined above), vaccination will not be provided.

## Best wishes to all our residents marking a religious observance

We recognize this is the second year that communities are being asked to make new traditions, in light of COVID-19 precautions.

As we all work to keep our community safe, we ask our faith leaders to please consider offering virtual or live-streamed services as the first choice, in order to allow your working with you



congregations to continue practicing their faith. Virtual services will prevent close contact between members of your congregation. [Visit our website for more info.](#)

If you have some in-person services or allow individuals to attend the church, please ensure public health measures are in place. Information on adapting these activities and delivering religious services, rites or ceremonies, is available on our [Places of worship - Additional safety measures.](#)

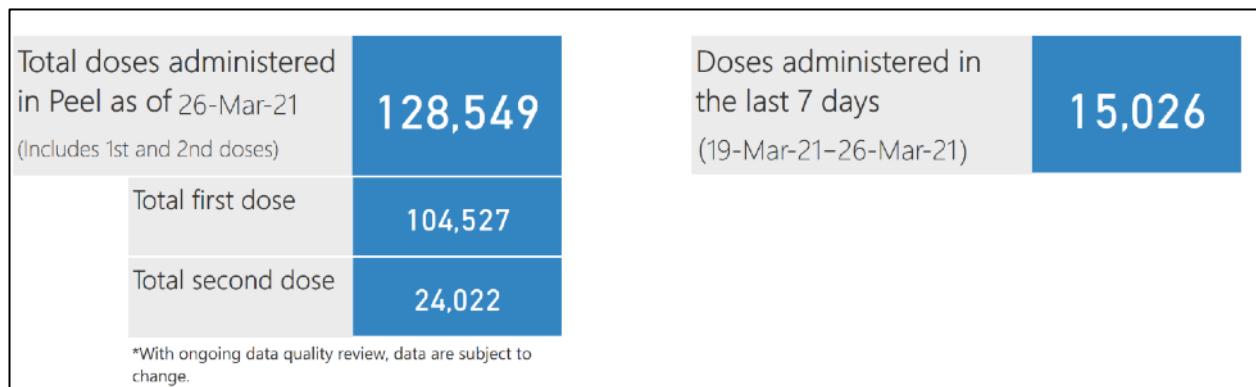
We thank you for the continued sacrifices made throughout the pandemic to your long-standing religious practices. We wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

### Hey seniors! Do you need a ride to your vaccine appointment?

Seniors who have challenges getting to and from the vaccine clinic can use TransHelp. Call **905-791-1015** at least 48 hours before your appointment to make your booking. You don't need to be a TransHelp client to use this service. You can also book your trip [online](#).

[Tweet:](#) Online booking is now available for #TransHelp passengers to make booking trips faster and more functional. Making services digital is one-way Peel is improving the passenger experience.

### Over 128,000 vaccine doses now administered in Peel



Visit our interactive [COVID-19 in Peel dashboard](#) for data on cases, outbreaks, vaccine status as well as other maps and reports. It will help residents monitor our progress in the fight against COVID-19. In addition to total doses administered in Peel, the following data is available:

- Total first doses and total second doses
- Doses administered in the last 7 days
- Doses administered by immunization date (graph) and cumulative doses administered by immunization date (graph)

You also be able to select data by immunization site, vaccine type and age group.

## **Do not show up at a clinic if it's not yet your turn**

COVID-19 vaccine appointments are only for the [eligible groups](#). To avoid crowding, do not drop into a local clinic unless you have an appointment.

**[Tweet:](#)** We know you're eager to get the COVID-19 vaccine! If you're not eligible yet, please don't book an appointment as we won't be able to vaccinate you, and it slows the process for others. Thanks for your patience. Find out when it'll be your turn: <http://bit.ly/3bBj2J0>

## **Update on AstraZeneca**

In alignment with updated NACI recommendations Ontario is only using the AstraZeneca vaccine for individuals 60 years and over, while the data are being reviewed by Health Canada.

At this time in Ontario the AstraZeneca vaccine is only available through pharmacy and primary care settings for those 60 years of age and older. There are not yet any pharmacies in Peel offering vaccination and primary care is reaching out to their eligible patients directly.

We continue to be guided by the latest science and evidence, and together with our federal and provincial partners we will continue to keep the public updated.

## Pop-up testing at select schools

Voluntary weekly testing continues to be available to our school community who do not have symptoms of COVID-19. Testing is also available to children, families and staff that attend child-care centres within the schools who do not have symptoms of COVID-19.

Please note that individuals who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 are not eligible for this testing program. **This includes any students/children or staff that are part of a dismissed class or cohort that have not yet returned to school or the child care setting.** These individuals should be tested at an [assessment center or community-based testing locations](#).

Targeted testing clinics are held at schools in areas of high transmission, high case numbers, and schools where access to current testing programs may be challenging. This program will help to identify cases of COVID-19 that may have otherwise gone undetected and reduce transmission of COVID-19 in schools.

Find the weekly pop-up testing schedule and the [closest testing location near you](#). School staff can also get tested at [participating pharmacies](#).

**[Tweet:](#)** COVID-19 voluntary school-based testing for students & staff without symptoms (asymptomatic) will take place at multiple sites this Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

## School exposure and dismissal

Coping with an exposure to COVID-19 can be stressful and challenging for families. [Learn more](#) about what do when there is a school exposure and your school issues a dismissal letter to you.

## Communication resources

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Promotion Toolkit](#)
- [Ontario Government shareable messages in multiple languages](#)
- [Region of Peel vaccine clinic photo library](#)
- [Take care of each other campaign toolkit](#)

- [Region of Peel Communication Toolkits archive](#)



## Videos

- [Region of Peel vaccination clinics video library](#)
- [Do I need to get the COVID-19 vaccine if I'm healthy?](#)
- [Does the COVID-19 vaccine cause infertility?](#)
  
- [Does an mRNA vaccine change your DNA?](#)
- [Dr. Marsilio shares 3 things that you need to know about COVID-19 variants](#)

## Region of Peel Contact Centre

Peel Public Health is operating a call centre dedicated to only COVID-19 inquiries:

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tel: 905-799-7700, Caledon Tel: 905-584-2216

Region of Peel COVID-19 Vaccination Line Tel: 905-791-5202