

# Peel Public Health communications toolkit

Issue: January 12, 2022

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

Please share the content of this toolkit and spread the word across your community about staying safe during COVID-19 and getting vaccinated. 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.

## Return to school planned for January 17, 2022

The news of a planned return to in-class learning on January 17 is a positive one that many parents will welcome, but we know that everyone is concerned for the health of their children.

It is vital that education staff and eligible students get their vaccine, be it booster, first or second doses, to help reduce the chance of severity should they contract COVID-19. Clinic information is included in this toolkit along with additional guidance on school reopening provided by the Ministry of Education.



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## COVID-19 updates

The Omicron-driven surge in cases has continued in Peel over the week ending on January 7, 2022. The 7-day moving average is 1,562 new cases per day. All local municipalities have experienced a steep increase in incidence of infection and new admissions to hospital (on average, 28 new admissions per day), but thankfully a corresponding steep increase in ICU admissions has not been observed.

With the recent provincial changes in testing and case management guidance, we are currently reviewing available data sources to determine how we can best understand and communicate COVID-19 impact in Peel in terms of community prevalence, severity, and health care capacity. As we transition towards these new data sources, we will continue to maintain daily case [dashboard](#) reporting, but this will be adjusted as necessary in the long-term.

### Ministry of Education introduces additional measures and updated guidance for a return to in-person learning

After a two-week long closure of in-person learning across all schools in the province, the Ministry of Education has issued [updated COVID-19 guidance](#). Peel Public Health welcomes this direction from the Province and supports in-class learning for students as this supports their mental health and learning needs. Additional measures and updated guidance announced by the Province include:

- The launch of school-day vaccination clinics
- Deployment of rapid antigen tests in schools
- Distribution of non-fit-tested N95 masks to all education and child care staff, and the distribution of 3-layer masks to students
- Deployment of an additional 3,000 standalone HEPA filter units to learning environments
- Updated and stricter screening requirements for students and staff, including daily onsite confirmation of screening.

Our community context has changed since school closures in previous waves. Almost 90% of our residents aged 12+ have received at least two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, which offers protection against severe outcomes associated with the Omicron variant.

We understand that schools will continue to implement infection control measures to reduce risk for staff and students. With widespread transmission of the Omicron variant, however, the overall approach in the community, and in schools, is shifting from preventing infection to preventing severity should one become infected with COVID-19.

Vigilance with measures such as **masking**, **staying home** if sick, and **getting vaccinated** is critical to limiting transmission in the in-person learning environment.

## Vaccine updates

### COVID-19 vaccination program

We significantly ramped up our system capacity into January to better meet the high demand for boosters. As well, we've witnessed widespread transmission of the Omicron variant, which has, and will continue to impact our vaccine clinic staffing and resourcing. As a result, although we continue to add a limited number of appointments daily across the system, our primary goal is to stabilize and sustain our current vaccination efforts and adjust as needed.

### Ontario adding more vaccine clinics for education and child care staff

On January 8, 2022, the Province [announced](#) additional vaccine clinics in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) that will provide accelerated access to COVID-19 booster shots for education and child care staff. The 10 additional clinics, including sites in Mississauga (FH Testing Centre @ 6585 Airport Road) and Brampton (FH Testing Centre @ 239 Queen Street, Unit 24), will serve education and child care staff in the GTHA during dedicated time slots. The clinics will administer booster doses and will operate seven days a week by [appointment](#).

These new clinics are in addition to the opening on January 7 of the Provincial mass vaccination clinic at the International Centre in Mississauga, which supports priority booking for education staff, including educators, custodial staff, administrative staff, school bus drivers and child care staff. The clinic operates seven days a week, with specific appointments being made available for education and child care staff from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Appointments can be made using the Provincial [online booking](#) system.

### Join us on Jan 16 for a Family Vaccination Clinic



Peel Public Health encourages parents, guardians and care givers of children 5-11 years old to start their child's journey to protection this coming Sunday, January 16, at Save Max Sports Centre (1495 Sandalwood Pkwy, E.). You can book an appointment for your 5–11-year-old AND get your booster at the same time, if you're eligible, without having to make an extra appointment. The clinic is open from 1-8p.m. For parents, guardians and care givers looking to book an appointment for your little ones, visit the [Region's website](#) or call 1-833-943-3900.

## Peel Public Health + ErinoakKids



Throughout January, February and March of this year, we have partnered with ErinoakKids Centre for Treatment and Development to host COVID-19 vaccine clinics at their Brampton and Mississauga locations. The clinics will provide a safe and comfortable child-focused space for some of our most vulnerable residents to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. More information, including dates and booking information is available [here](#).



## School-based clinics operating throughout January and February

We have school-based COVID-19 vaccine clinics ready to welcome your children when you're ready. Appointments for 1<sup>st</sup> doses for children 5-11 can be booked using the provincial [vaccine appointment booking](#) system or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY 1-866-797-0007). Walk-ins are also permitted at all school-based clinics. Below is a list of COVID-19 vaccine school-based [clinic locations and times](#).

School	Day of Week	January	February	Clinic Hours
<b>Sandalwood Heights Secondary School</b> 2671 Sandalwood Pkwy E, Brampton, ON L6R 0K7	Monday	24, 31	21, 28	4:30pm - 7:30pm
<b>Lincoln M. Alexander Secondary School</b> 3545 Morning Star Dr, Mississauga, ON L4T 1Y3	Tuesday	25	1, 8, 22	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>Forest Glen Elementary School</b> 3400 Ponytrail Dr, Mississauga, ON L4X 1V5	Wednesday	26	16, 23	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>David Suzuki Secondary School</b> 45 Daviselm Dr, Brampton, ON L6X 0Z3	Wednesday	19	2, 9	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>John Fraser Secondary School</b> 2665 Erin Centre Blvd, Mississauga, ON L5M 5H6	Wednesday	26	2, 9, 16	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>Ridgewood Elementary School</b> 7207 Cambrett Dr, Mississauga, ON L4T 2R3	Friday	14	4, 25	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>Chinguacousy Secondary School</b> 1370 Williams Pkwy E, Brampton, ON L6S 1V3	Friday	21, 28	11, 18	4:30pm-7:30pm

<b>Nahani Way Elementary School</b> 235 Nahani Way, Mississauga, ON L4Z 3J6	Saturday	29	5, 12	10:00am-5:00pm
<b>Fletcher's Meadow Secondary School</b> 10750 Chinguacousy Rd, Brampton, ON L7A 2Z7	Sunday	23, 30	6, 13	10:00am-5:00pm
<b>Applewood Heights Secondary School</b> 945 Bloor St, Mississauga, ON L4Y 2M8	Sunday	16, 23	20, 27	10:00am-5:00pm
<b>Churchill Meadows Elementary School</b> 3310 McDowell Dr., Mississauga, ON L5M 6R8	Sunday	NA	13, 20	10:00am-5:00pm
<b>Rick Hansen Secondary School* (*NEW)</b> 1150 Dream Crest Rd, Mississauga, ON L5V 1N6	Friday	21, 28	4, 11	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc Elementary School</b> 25 Laurelcrest St, Brampton, ON L6S 4C4	Monday	17	7, 14	5:00pm-7:30pm
<b>École élémentaire Carrefour des jeunes</b> 375 Centre St N, Brampton, ON L6V 4N4	Tuesday	18	15	5:00pm-7:30pm
<b>St. Alfred Catholic Elementary School</b> 3341 Havenwood Dr, Mississauga, ON L4X 2M2	Monday	24	7, 14, 21	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>St. Michael Catholic Secondary School</b> 9130 Columbia Way, Bolton, ON L7E 4G6	Monday	17, 24, 31	7, 28	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>Cardinal Leger Catholic Secondary School</b> 75 Mary St, Brampton, ON L6W 3K5	Tuesday	18, 25	1, 8, 15	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>St. Daniel Camboni Catholic Elementary School</b> 120 Veterans Dr, Brampton, ON L7A 3Z7	Thursday	13, 20	3, 17, 24	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Secondary School</b> 3700 Trelawny Circle, Mississauga, ON L5N 5J7	Thursday	27	3, 10	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic Secondary School</b> 10 Castle Oaks Crossing, Brampton, ON L6P 3A2	Thursday	13, 20	10, 17, 24	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>Father Daniel Zanon Catholic Elementary School</b> 450 Hillcrest Ave, Mississauga, ON L5B 4J3	Friday	14	4, 11	4:30pm-7:30pm
<b>Father Michael Goetz Catholic Secondary School</b> 330 Central Pkwy W, Mississauga, ON L5B 3K6	Saturday	15, 22	12, 19, 26	10:00am-5:00pm

<b>St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Elementary School</b> 2350 Hurontario St, Mississauga, ON L5B 1N1	Saturday	15, 22	19, 26	10:00am-5:00pm
<b>Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Secondary School</b> 7640 Anaka Dr, Mississauga, ON L4T 3H7	Saturday	29	5, 12	10:00am-5:00pm
<b>St. Raymond Catholic Elementary School</b> 5735 Whitehorn Ave, Mississauga, ON L5V 2A9	Sunday	16, 30	6, 20, 27	10:00am-5:00pm

## Interchangeability of vaccines is safe and effective

The infographic features a blue background with white and yellow text. It shows a sequence of vaccine doses: '1st dose' (AstraZeneca, Moderna or Pfizer) followed by a plus sign, '2nd dose' (AstraZeneca, Moderna or Pfizer) followed by another plus sign, and 'booster' (Any mRNA (Moderna or Pfizer)). Below this sequence is a yellow box with the text '= your best protection'.

As of Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021, all residents 30 years and older will receive Moderna vaccine for their first, second and booster shots. While there is enough mRNA vaccine in Ontario for everyone, there is currently a limited supply of adult (12+) Pfizer available. Pediatric (5-11) Pfizer remains widely available.

Pfizer and Moderna are both mRNA vaccines. Because they use the same technology, they can

be safely mixed and will provide a strong immune response that protects against severe illness. As Omicron continues to spread quickly throughout our community, residents who wait for a preferred brand could put their health and their family at serious risk. Additional information on the interchangeability of vaccines is available from the [CDC](#).

Pfizer will be administered to residents aged 12 to 29, as NACI has advised a preference for Pfizer for this age group. The reason for this is to further minimize the rare risk of adolescents and young adults experiencing myocarditis and/or pericarditis after the second dose of Moderna.



## GO-VAXX mobile vaccine clinics

The Ontario government has partnered with Metrolinx to provide a safe, reliable and convenient option for people to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. GO buses have been converted to serve as mobile vaccine clinics to get COVID-19 vaccines directly to people, wherever they are located – travelling to malls, festivals, community hubs and events across Southern Ontario and beyond. This includes first, second, third and booster doses, as well as the paediatric Pfizer vaccine for children aged five to 11.

Each bus operates as a fully functioning vaccine clinic with the necessary supplies and trained staff to provide assistance to people and ensure vaccines are administered safely. These are now appointment only, and booking and other information is available on the [Province's website](#).



**In Peel, you can get your vaccine at any of the clinics below:** Information about all vaccine locations and booking can be found [online](#).

- **Fixed clinics:**
  - Five public health fixed clinics offering both walk-ins (for first and second doses among residents aged 5+) and appointment bookings (booking [link](#))
  - One clinic at Trillium Health Partners (booking [link](#))
  - One Ministry of Health clinic at the International Centre (booking [link](#))
- For a full list of our **pop-up clinics** in-progress or upcoming ([website](#))
- For a full list of our **school-based COVID-19 vaccine** in-progress and upcoming ([website](#))
- **Pharmacies** – most pharmacies book appointments ahead of time and some allow walk-ins. Check with the pharmacy before you go ([find a pharmacy location](#))
- **Primary care** – Doctor's offices, walk-in clinics, and other providers across Peel ([find a primary care provider offering vaccine](#))



## Download your enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code.

It's an easy and a more convenient way to verify proof of vaccination. You can use a printed or digital copy. Valid personal ID is required to confirm identity. Check [How to get your COVID-19 vaccine certificate for more information.](#)

## COVID-19 Testing

### Reminder about updated testing guidance

Only symptomatic individuals living or working in high-risk settings **and/or** are at risk of severe illness **and** vulnerable populations will have access to publicly funded PCR testing. The list of eligible individuals can be found [here](#).

Rapid antigen tests are being prioritized for health care and highest risk settings to continue to keep these settings safe. Those not in a high-risk setting and who have symptoms are not recommended for testing.

Everyone who has [symptoms of COVID-19](#) and are not eligible for a PCR test and do not have access to a rapid antigen test should assume that they have COVID-19 and isolate according to current guidelines. Individuals with a positive rapid antigen test will no longer be required or encouraged to get a confirmatory PCR or rapid molecular test and are no longer required to report their positive result to public health.



## Communication resources

### Proper mask wearing protects you and others

When combined with distancing and washing your hands, evidence shows that masks help control COVID-19 at its source. Wearing masks correctly helps control spread by preventing you from accidentally infecting others by blocking respiratory particles that leave your mouth and nose when you talk, cough, sing or sneeze. This is especially important in situations where it's difficult to maintain physical distance. **Staying up to date on proper mask wearing and related guidance is important for continued protection.** Resources are available on [our website](#), as well as through the [Government of Canada](#).

**How to make your mask fit properly**



Make sure your mask completely covers your nose, mouth and chin.



Check for gaps between your face and your mask.

- Check the top, sides and bottom of your mask.



- Check the edges of your mask for air leaks and adjust if necessary.



Improve mask fit so it's snug and has no gaps.

- Adjust the ties, bands or ear loops.



- Adjust the nosepiece.

**Other ways to improve mask fit include:**



Tie knots in the ear loops.



Tuck in the sides of the mask so that it lies flat against your face.



Use a mask fitter or brace to help provide a snug fit.



Layer a well-fitting non-medical cloth mask over a disposable mask to help push the edges of the disposable mask closer to your face.

- Make sure that you can still breathe easily when wearing 2 masks.



Consider keeping facial hair shaved or short if possible, as this allows the masks to fit more closely to your face.

**Social media posts**

[As soon as you get the vaccine, it goes to work](#)

[It's safe to get the COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy](#)

[Wondering if you should get vaccinated if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or want to get pregnant?](#)

[COVID-19 vaccine booster appointments have been added for those 18 and older](#)

[With our little ones slated to return to school on Jan. 17, it's important to get them vaxxed!](#)

## Real Peel, Real Voices

Peel residents share their vaccination journey with the hope of getting back to the people and things they love. Their unique perspectives show our community's strength and commitment to keeping each other safe. Share these [authentic and relatable stories](#) from diverse Peel residents and local community leaders as vaccination ambassadors to continue to build vaccine confidence with residents and reduce vaccination barriers.

## Contact us

For inquiries about COVID-19 vaccinations call the Region of Peel's COVID-19 Vaccination Line at 905-791-5202, 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For all other COVID-related inquiries, call:

- **Call 905-799-7700 in Brampton and Mississauga**
- **Call 905-584-2216 in Caledon**