

## Appendix II

### Peel Public Health and COVID-19: An Equitable and Engaged Response

#### Case, Contact and Outbreak Management

CONCEPT	STATUS
<b>Rapidly manage cases confirmed among Peel residents, to reduce transmission and ensure safe isolation</b>	Peel Public Health continues to conduct case and contact interviews through immediate live phone language translation services, to collect information to inform outbreak investigation and community exposures and to assess emerging needs related to case, contact and outbreak management.
<b>Provide Peel residents who face barriers to COVID-19 self-isolation, with appropriate supports and services for home isolation and recovery</b>	<p>Expansion of the COVID-19 Isolation and Recovery Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With funding from the Government of Canada, additional capacity was added to the program as of December 1, 2020.</li> <li>• Peel Public Health works closely with Human Services to support their work in managing the COVID-19 isolation and recovery program and its expansion with additional sites planned through provincial funding.</li> <li>• In December 2020, over 180 Peel residents accessed the site.</li> <li>• Peel Public Health continues to work with community partners to ensure the program is promoted in culturally relevant ways through translation.</li> <li>• Socio-demographic data will be collected to inform program development.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peel Public Health is partnering with Ontario Health, Health Commons Solutions Lab and community partners to implement the provincial High Priority Communities Strategy in Peel. The purpose of this strategy is to coordinate tailored community outreach and engagement, increase access to testing and provide wrap-around supports through a case management approach within prioritized communities.</li> <li>• Peel Public Health continues to support Regional partners to leverage all available funding for providing supports for vulnerable individuals and for those isolating at home; and to work with community agencies and stakeholders to identify culturally appropriate community supports and referrals to community supports (i.e. wrap around supports) for COVID-19 self-isolation.</li> </ul>

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#### Epidemiologic Surveillance and Reporting

CONCEPT	STATUS
Assess and report on COVID-19 data, in order to describe the health of the population and identify health inequalities	<p><b>Data on determinants of health</b> (e.g., age, gender, race, occupation, household size) are obtained during COVID case investigations. Summary data are reported monthly on the COVID-19 in Peel Case <a href="#">Dashboard</a> and in Peel's COVID-19 weekly epidemiologic update.</p> <p><b>Cases of COVID-19 in Peel Dashboard updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on COVID-19 outbreak status in long-term care, retirement homes, schools and childcare settings are included daily on the dashboard.</li> <li>• COVID-19 workplace outbreaks are updated and reported weekly. Recent updates show that outbreaks in the manufacturing/industrial setting continue to account for the largest proportion of workplace outbreaks in Peel.</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive map of COVID-19 cases in Peel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interactive map is updated weekly.</li> <li>• Case data from the incidence map dashboard was made available for download on December 11, 2020.</li> </ul> <p><b>Testing and Positivity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interactive map is updated weekly.</li> <li>• A testing and positivity mapping dashboard launched December 11, 2020 with option to download data.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weekly COVID-19 Epidemiologic Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peel Public Health continues to provide weekly epidemiologic updates. Recent updates have included analyses by age showing disproportionate severe impact among the elderly population and in long-term care.</li> </ul>

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#### Public Health Measures

CONCEPT	STATUS
Identify and implement new or enhanced policies or interventions that protect the population from acquiring or transmitting COVID-19	<p>Peel Public Health has established a new policy and intervention working group that is currently assessing other potential interventions to reduce transmission in households and workplaces.</p> <p>Peel Public Health continues to advocate for supports to address the underlying determinants of health including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>COVID-19 funding for a safe, voluntary isolation site:</b> On November 9, 2020, the Regional Chair sent an advocacy letter to Federal Minister of Health to expedite funding for a safe, voluntary isolation site for Peel residents who are unable to self-isolate at home. Later that day, the funding application was approved.</li> <li>• <b>Paid sick leave:</b> Peel Public Health has played a supportive role in advocating for paid sick leave benefits. On December 10, 2020, Region of Peel Council unanimously passed a resolution to advocate to the federal and provincial governments for paid sick day benefits and that the latter extend infectious disease emergency leave provisions for workers. The Regional Chair's letter to this effect was sent on December 14, 2020. Emergency leave regulations were amended by the province on December 17, 2020. Advocacy efforts continue in collaboration with the Peel Poverty Reduction Committee, among others.</li> </ul> <p><b>Engagement with community and stakeholder groups:</b></p> <p>On a regular basis, Peel Public Health engages with community and social service agencies such as the Peel Community Response Table and the Peel Poverty Reduction Lived Experience Roundtable.</p> <p>Peel Public Health is partnering with Ontario Health, Health Commons Solutions Lab and community partners to implement the provincial High Priority Communities Strategy locally in order to coordinate tailored community outreach and engagement, increase access to testing and provide wrap-around supports through a case management approach within prioritized communities.</p>
Target public health measures to prevent COVID-19 outbreak transmission in the home and community settings	<p>Peel Public Health continues to provide support for outbreak management and infection, prevention and control within each setting, and continues to collaborate with Ontario Health about enhanced testing messages and identification of areas for targeted testing.</p>

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#### Education, Engagement, Enforcement and Leadership

CONCEPT	STATUS
<b>Educate the public on strategies to reduce the risk of COVID-19 acquisition and transmission</b>	Peel Public Health continues to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information to the public through the Region of Peel website in 13 languages.</li> <li>• Work with community agencies and stakeholders to share the most up-to-date COVID information.</li> </ul>
<b>Engage relevant partners and stakeholders in public education and communications, policy development and service provision</b>	Peel Public Health continues to work with community agencies and stakeholders. Some examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ontario Health</li> <li>• Community Response Table</li> <li>• Interfaith Council</li> <li>• COVID-19 South Asian Task Force</li> <li>• World Sikh Organization (providing support for advocacy, application of PH guidance to practice, support international students)</li> <li>• Peel Poverty Reduction Committee</li> <li>• United Way Greater Toronto</li> <li>• Health Commons Solutions Lab</li> <li>• Roots Community Services</li> </ul>
<b>Ensure that the health of vulnerable populations and the general public are protected through education and enforcement</b>	Peel Public Health continues to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide education and enforcement of public health guidance and problem-solving barriers to compliance.</li> <li>• Partner with the Ministry of Labour, Training, and Skills Development inspectors and other provincial Ministries and agencies to: conduct inspections of high-risk workplaces and to advocate for increased protection for precariously employed workers (temporary, contract, and agency workers) to support self-isolation if sick or exposed to COVID-19.</li> </ul>
<b>Advocate for policy changes that address social determinants of health known to increase COVID-19 risk in vulnerable populations</b>	Peel Public Health continues to advocate for supports to address the underlying determinants of health.

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#### Communication with the Public, Stakeholders and Partners

CONCEPT	STATUS
<b>Provide timely access to information by using various communication channels</b>	<p>Peel Public Health uses a wide array of communication mediums (e.g. videos, newsletters, posters, handouts) and channels (e.g. website and social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) to share information. For key cultural celebrations, influencer videos were developed in relevant languages to encourage public health measures while celebrating. At this time, the Region of Peel's website can be translated in 13 common languages.</p> <p>Peel Public Health continues to work with community agencies to review and receive input on communication materials.</p> <p>Peel Public Health has updated the case and contact and business pages of the website, updated information related to self-isolation, and added new sections on the website related to COVID-19 for the public and health care providers.</p>
<b>Provide contextual relevance of information for specific populations</b>	<p>Peel Public Health continues to actively work with community roundtables, as well as faith-based organizations and faith leaders, to develop, adapt and communicate public health messages.</p> <p>Peel Public Health is currently consulting with municipal Economic Development Offices on communication needs of business communities and is continuing discussions with faith-based taskforces related to amplification of social media messaging and public health messages.</p>
<b>Respond in a timely manner to public inquiries</b>	<p>Peel Public Health continues to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• respond to the majority of email enquiries within two days.</li> <li>• review call flow and implement process enhancements for Public Health Contact Centre.</li> </ul> <p>Between March 19, 2020-January 5, 2021 Public Health Contact Centre answered 70,000 telephone inquiries from the public, businesses, and health care professionals.</p>