

# Accessibility Advisory Committee

## Region of Peel's COVID-19 Vaccination Program Update

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# Context

- Disproportionate impact of COVID-19 among specific population groups within Peel, including persons with disabilities and those with accessibility needs.
- These groups may also face additional barriers to protect themselves from COVID-19, including getting vaccinated.



# Soliciting Input about Accessibility Needs

- Input was collected from community organizations and key stakeholders (e.g., health system partners) who service and/or represent Peel residents with disabilities and/or accessibility needs
- Input was collected through:
  - **Mass Vaccination Program Planning Tables** – e.g., Homecare and Assisted Living, Seniors and Older Adults, Community and Social Services Supports, School and Youth, and Primary Care
  - **Additional Community Tables (Ad Hoc)** – e.g., Community Response Table, and High Priority Communities Strategy

# Integrating Accessibility Measures and Considerations into Vaccination Planning & Rollout

- Input gathered about accessibility needs in Peel was used to inform our Regional vaccination planning strategy, rollout and clinic operations, for example:
  - Assessment of **clinic space and location** for accessibility
  - Provision of **targeted clinics** for specific population groups with accessibility needs
  - Provision of a **Homebound Vaccine Program** option for residents
  - Reduction of barriers through **direct support to residents**



# Example 1: Accessibility Criteria for Clinic Space & Location

- Appropriate parking
- Proximity to transit
- Floor plan & floor level
- Square footage
- Adequate lighting
- Appropriate flooring type



# Example 2: Targeted Vaccine Clinics



- **Mobile clinics** for highest risk seniors buildings and those receiving homecare, shelters, group homes, youth focused living
- **Pop-up clinic** in partnership with ErinoakKids, for medically fragile children and children with complex needs, including special events with school boards for this population
- **Drive-thru clinics** which have supported individuals who may have physical, cognitive or social needs requiring this accessibility accommodation

# ErinoakKids



# Example 3: Homebound Vaccine Program

	Total doses administered
Residents	5125
Caregivers	1119
Paediatric (5-11)	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>6248</b>

Table displays the number of doses administered as of March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

# Example 4: Reducing Barriers to Getting Vaccinated

- **Booking Supports**
  - E.g., designated vaccine phone line; walk-in availability; support for booking through community agencies
- **Transportation Supports**
  - expansion of Regional TransHelp program to support travel to/from vaccine appointments
- **Language Supports**
  - offered to residents and their caregivers at clinics
  - E.g., interpretation and sign language services



# Communicating our Suite of Accessibility Measures to Peel Residents

- Shared timely information through various Regional communication channels, including about how we have addressed accessibility barriers, and promoted our suite of accessibility measures (e.g., options for appointment bookings and accessible clinics)
- Examples of our Regional communication channels:
  - Community Response Table
  - High Priority Community Strategies
  - Health Professionals Update
  - Proactive communications through Region of Peel social media, website, Communications Toolkit and the *Real Peel, Real Voices* campaign

# Moving Forward...

