

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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December 22, 2020

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REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Your Worship
Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair
Regional Municipality of Peel
chair@peelregion.ca

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

Dear Chair Iannicca:

The health and safety of Ontarians continue to be our government's top priority. We are proud of our partnership with municipalities to control the spread of COVID-19.

As announced yesterday, our government is providing \$12.5 million to support the efforts of the Ministry of Health to implement a High Priority Communities Strategy to contain the virus in high-risk neighbourhoods. The strategy will take a tailored, community-based approach to making people aware of available services and assistance, for coordination of increased testing opportunities and for the arrangement of wraparound supports for those who are COVID-positive in 15 priority communities in Durham, Peel, Toronto, Ottawa and York.

In order to encourage Ontarians to get tested and self-isolate when they test positive, we collectively need to ensure supports are in place for those individuals who face challenges isolating safely.

For that reason, our government is investing up to \$42 million to establish isolation centres in priority neighbourhoods in Durham Region, Peel Region, The City of Toronto and York Region. These high priority neighbourhoods have registered high COVID-19 infection and low testing rates, and face socio-demographic barriers to testing and self-isolation. The proposed funding will build on the voluntary isolation facilities that already exist in some communities to create up to 10 new isolation centres in Ontario for individuals who test positive and need a place to self-isolate to keep their families and communities safe.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing intends to work with the Service Managers that support these communities to quickly establish these new isolation centres in hotels within your municipalities. Funds will be allocated based on needs and costs identified in consultation with the Service Managers and information provided by the Ministry of Health.

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We will continue to work with Ontario Health and Public Health Units to expand the list of priority communities as necessary, and will continue to monitor the public health trends and engage with local authorities and health experts to assess the need for potential additional isolation centres across the province.

As more details become available, we look forward to working in close partnership with your municipality so that we can continue to create awareness about these isolation centres and the services that will be made available at these sites.

We will also look to you to identify opportunities for continuous improvement to this initiative over the next few months. If you require further information about this initiative, please contact Jim Adams, Director, Housing Programs Branch at: Jim.E.Adams@ontario.ca.

Thank you once again for supporting the province in our joint efforts to protect the health and safety of Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

c. Janice Baker, Chief Administrative Officer, Regional Municipality of Peel
(janice.baker@peelregion.ca)
Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services