

May 26, 2021

**To: All owners and operators of businesses and organizations in the City of Peterborough downtown area**  
**RE: Public health measures in the downtown for the spring and summer months**

During the week of June 14<sup>th</sup>, it is anticipated that Ontario will begin a gradual province-wide re-opening based on a [three phased reopening plan](#).<sup>1</sup> With this news, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge your contribution to the local fight against the COVID-19 third wave and to thank you for your tireless efforts to reopen safely, comply with the legislation, and protect your staff, customers and our community at large.

Peterborough Public Health (PPH) and community partners are making significant progress regarding the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations for our community. As of May 21, 2021, just over 64,000 residents have had their first dose of vaccine.<sup>2</sup> However, COVID-19 continues to be present in the City and County of Peterborough and we continue to see a high number of cases linked to variants of concern (VOCs). Until we have a significant portion of residents fully vaccinated with their second dose, we will continue to need strong public health measures, such as physical distancing, wearing masks and enhanced cleaning and disinfection throughout the summer and possibly into the fall.

Over the past few months, PPH has been working with City staff as well as staff from the Peterborough Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA) to create a plan for the downtown area for the spring and summer months. This plan strives to maximize available public space for the warmer months to give downtown businesses flexibility with their operations while at the same time allowing community members to safely access downtown shops, restaurants and services. To ensure this plan is effective and the downtown has the capacity to welcome all residents to this space, I encourage every downtown business and organization to do everything within your control to layer protective measures for the safety of your customers, your staff, and our broader community.

In addition to the applicable requirements for your business or organization listed in the [Orders currently in force under the Reopening of Ontario Act](#), I am requesting your assistance to:

- Have a complete COVID-19 safety plan for your business or organization. This includes ensuring that your staff have received appropriate training for the consistent implementation of the plan.
  - [Click here](#) to learn more about safety plans and how to complete one.
- Post a copy of your COVID-19 safety plan in a visible location that members of the public can see.
- Have shopping alternatives such as curb-side pick-up and online ordering (to the greatest extent possible) to minimize the number of people needing to enter indoor areas.
- Follow applicable [Orders and Instructions](#) issued by PPH for specific sectors located in the Peterborough region (e.g., letter of instruction for food premises).
- Post signage to remind customers about physical distancing, face coverings use, screening, and handwashing/sanitizing. You can access various examples of signage [here](#).
- Ensure that staff are completing active screening daily and wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (e.g. medical mask + eye protection) anytime they are within 2m/6ft within colleagues or the public.

- Keep the sidewalk adjacent to your business free and clear of any objects or queue lines in order to maximize the physical distancing space available to pedestrians.
  - This means we are asking that you do not place sandwich boards, bistro tables, clothing racks or similar objects on the sidewalk. This will allow us to keep sidewalks for 2-way pedestrian travel that offers the maximum amount of available space to physically distance.
  - If your business will be using the on-street parking zone to create additional patio or retail space, the sidewalk between your business and the expanded retail/patio space must be left clear for pedestrians to pass through. Line ups will not be permitted, which means reservations at your establishment may be required.
- Keep music at conversational level to minimize the need for a person to speak loudly or yell. This is applicable for all establishments, including restaurants, bars, and retail settings.
- Ensure that live music is only offered if it meets the requirements set out in the Regulations listed under the [Reopening of Ontario Act](#).
  - Appropriate safety precautions will be needed for live music, including but not limited to the current guidance, such as:
    - singers or performers of brass or wind instruments must be separated from every other person by plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier,
    - every performer maintains 2m/6 ft physical distancing from any other person, and
    - any equipment used by members of the public is cleaned and disinfected between each use.
  - Live music is only allowed within the boundaries of your establishment and/or the permitted outdoor area; it must not take place on the public sidewalk.

The ongoing efforts of local businesses to adapt and change throughout this pandemic has been quite simply heroic and for that I cannot thank you enough. Our local COVID-19 response has been a long marathon, not a sprint. Even though we have not finished this run, we are definitely nearing the other side. Following all applicable public health measures until we know it is safe to lessen them, will help keep residents safe and businesses operating.

If you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 705-743-1000 to speak with a Public Health Inspector.

For more information on COVID-19 visit: [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca).

Sincerely,

***Original signed by***

Rosana Salvaterra, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health

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<sup>1</sup> Government of Ontario. (2021, May 20). *Reopening Ontario*. Accessed May 21, 2021: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario>

<sup>2</sup> Peterborough Public Health. (2021, May 14). *Peterborough Public Health Local COVID-19 tracker*. Accessed May 14, 2021: <https://localcovidtracker.ca/>