

June 10, 2021

**To: All local municipalities within the geographical area served by Peterborough Public Health**

**RE: Medical Officer of Health recommendations related to municipal facilities owned and operated by local municipalities for Step One of Ontario's Roadmap to Reopen**

On Friday June 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:01 a.m. the Province of Ontario enters [Step One of Ontario's Roadmap to Reopen](#).<sup>1</sup> Step One is designed to allow more outdoor activities to resume with smaller, well-managed crowds where risk of COVID-19 transmission is minimized. The launch of Step One of the Roadmap is a sign that we are slowly moving out of the COVID-19 third wave, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your tireless efforts to help us reach this turning point.

Peterborough Public Health (PPH) and community partners are making significant progress regarding the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations. As of June 9, 2021, just over 81,000 residents have received their first dose of vaccine and just over 9,000 residents have received two doses of vaccine.<sup>2</sup> The decline in COVID-19 cases as well as the progress with vaccinations is a positive sign that our efforts to control COVID-19 in our community are working. To continue with this progress, we must remain diligent in the implementation of public health measures to protect our community from the potentially serious effects of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 virus and Variants of Concern (VOCs) of the COVID-19 virus continue to circulate in the geographical region served by Peterborough Public Health<sup>3</sup>, as well as in neighbouring communities.<sup>4</sup> As of June 9, 2021, there have been a total of 711 cases identified locally as an individual infected with a VOC.

The key risk factors associated with the potential transmission of COVID-19 include:<sup>5</sup>

- Close contact
- Closed spaces
- Crowded places
- Prolonged exposure
- Forceful exhalation

Until we have a significant portion of residents fully vaccinated with their second dose, we will continue to need strong public health measures throughout the summer, such as restricted capacity limits, physical distancing and wearing masks. As such, I am recommending that our municipal facilities continue to implement enhanced public health measures during the Step One period. These enhanced public health measures include:

- Restricting the rental of municipal facilities to only those residing within the geographic area served by PPH and leagues that are based out of the geographic area served by PPH.
  - Consider requesting proof of local residency (e.g. photo ID, utility bill) or operating address for a league, prior to entering into rental agreements or contracts.
  - Rental agreements should be with teams or leagues from the PPH region, however, it is understandable that there may be individual players on local teams who are from other regions.
- Ensuring that municipal staff inform any person organizing the use of any municipal facility or space, that it is the organizer's obligation to produce to the municipality a complete COVID-19 safety plan that explains how public health measures including screening, masking, cleaning and disinfection, physical distancing, capacity limits, contact tracing, etc., will be implemented.

- In order to comply with Step One gathering limits, ensure that any permit issued for outdoor municipal spaces is for a maximum of 10 people, where physical distancing can be maintained, and is not for any purpose that would be likely to draw a crowd (i.e., live music, vendors, etc.).
- Restricting the use and rental of outdoor municipal spaces for a wedding, a funeral or a religious service, rite or ceremony to a maximum of 10 people, where physical distancing can be maintained.
- Ensuring that any permit issued for an outdoor sports facility is for a maximum of 10 patrons per sports field (e.g., fields are not split to make two or more practice areas on one field). The only exception to this requirement is when a permit is issued for an outdoor day camp for children that is operated in a manner consistent with the safety guidelines [for COVID-19 for day camps produced by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health](#).

Please note that where provincial requirements are more stringent than these recommendations, the provincial requirements apply. For example, indoor recreational facilities and indoor meeting and event spaces must be closed for Step One, except for permitted uses.

With the warm weather upon us, many groups and sporting teams are keen to resume activities as soon as possible. As a reminder, municipalities, as the entity responsible for recreational facilities, must develop a COVID-19 safety plan to ensure that the facility is operated within the confines of provincial legislation. This applies even if the sport and recreational facility is outdoors. This safety plan is in addition to the plan that each user group must submit to demonstrate and satisfy the municipality that the space will be used appropriately, and in compliance with the legislation.

PPH is committed to using targeted public health measures to keep our region safe, maintain health system capacity and to protect our most vulnerable residents, including those living in long-term care. PPH also recognizes that each municipality will continue to ensure that its provision of municipal services will continue to meet the employer's obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. It is essential to remain vigilant in our fight against COVID-19. To help with this, I strongly encourage you to take further actions within your municipal facilities and services that align with the recommendations listed above to help protect our community.

This letter is in effect until the end of the Step One period. During this time period, we will be monitoring trends in COVID-19 cases and contacts, as well as local health indicators to determine the need for enhanced public health measures for municipal facilities in Step Two. Thank you for your consideration. If you have further questions or concerns, we are here to support our local municipalities and residents. For more information visit: [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca).

Sincerely,

***Original signed by***

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Medical Officer of Health

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<sup>1</sup> Government of Ontario. (2021, June 7). *Reopening Ontario*. Accessed June 7, 2021: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario>

<sup>2</sup> Peterborough Public Health. (2021, June 7). *Local COVID-19 Vaccination*. Accessed June 7, 2021: <https://localcovidtracker.ca/>

<sup>3</sup> Peterborough Public Health. *Local COVID-19 Cases & Status*. Accessed June 8, 2021: <https://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/local-covid-19-status/>

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<sup>4</sup> Public Health Ontario. *Ontario COVID-19 Data Tool*. Accessed June 8, 2021:

[Ontario COVID-19 Data Tool | https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/infectious-disease/covid-19-data-surveillance/covid-19-data-tool?tab=maps](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/infectious-disease/covid-19-data-surveillance/covid-19-data-tool?tab=maps) Public Health Ontario

<sup>5</sup> Public Health Ontario. *COVID-19 Transmission Through Large Respiratory Droplets and Aerosols... What We Know So Far*. May 20, 2021. Accessed June 8, 2021:

[What We Know So Far: COVID-19 Transmission Through Large Respiratory Droplets and Aerosols \(publichealthontario.ca\)](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/what-we-know-so-far/covid-19-transmission-through-large-respiratory-droplets-and-aerosols)