

October 20, 2021

Attention: Landlords, owners of multi-unit dwellings, and housing providers in the City and County of Peterborough

Foremost, let us be the first to thank you for your diligence in protecting your residents over the last 19 months from the perils of COVID-19; managing a property is challenging enough when we are not in the midst of a pandemic, let alone now when there are so many added pressures.

With increasing vaccination rates, the prospect of youth 5-11 being able to receive the vaccine soon, and existing public health measures that continue to blunt the curve, there is reason to be optimistic. In the interim, however, the 'fourth wave' continues to pose a very real threat to our health, our community, and our economy.

The timing of this letter is not accidental. As cooler, wetter weather becomes the norm – more people are going to move indoors, which increases the likelihood that COVID-19 will spread. Subsequently, we are starting to receive more complaints about public health measures – or lack thereof – at Multi-Unit Dwellings and we have an obligation to respond to these complaints once received.

As such, we are asking for your help to reduce the risk of transmission in your properties:

- 1) [Promote vaccination clinics to your staff and tenants](#). Vaccination for those eligible, remains the most effective tool we have to get ahead of this pandemic. The vaccine is safe, and the vaccine is effective:

[COVID-19 Vaccine Questions and Answers](#) (Handout)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Questions and Answers](#) (YouTube)

- 2) [Develop a workplace vaccination policy](#) for your own staff.

In the event that there is a high risk exposure to COVID-19 for one of your staff or residents, in addition to the health protection offered by the vaccine, [the difference between being vaccinated and unvaccinated is stark](#): people who are unvaccinated will likely have to *self-isolate* for 10 days, whereas people who are fully vaccinated will likely only have to *self-monitor* for 10 day.

- 3) Ensure your building's [HVAC system](#) is operating as per manufacturer's instructions and that tenants have the ability to [increase fresh air intake into their own units](#).
- 4) Familiarize yourself with the obligations of [O. Reg. 364/20](#) – the Rules for Step 3 – as they apply to your property/properties. Namely (but not exclusively):
 - Schedule 3, Section 1: Where the ability to remain physically distanced exists, **gathering limits shall not exceed 25 indoors, and 100 outdoors**
 - Schedule 1, Section 7: "Any washrooms, locker rooms, change rooms, showers or similar **amenities made available to the public are cleaned** and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition" (this would include stairwells, foyers, laundry rooms, mail rooms, etc.)
 - Schedule 1, Section 2, Subsection 4: [Masks are required to be worn indoors \(in common areas\) by everyone](#); including contractors, guests, employees at the building, and residents (with limited exceptions)
 - Schedule 1, Section 2, Subsection 4, Clause 5: Physical distancing of 6' must be maintained between people that do not live together

- 5) In addition to the steps you are able to take, we know that the residents have a role to play too. As such, we are asking you to distribute/disseminate [this letter](#) to your residents.

[We have compiled a variety of resources](#) that will support you and your tenants in mitigating the risk of the fourth wave and reducing the transmission of the virus at your properties. Likewise, [we have created signage](#) that you can print off and display in your building as needed. If you are aware of other resources or tools that could support your sector, or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

We appreciate your willingness to implement these public health measures as we re-double our efforts to get us out of this fourth, and hopefully final, wave.

As always, please be in touch if there is anything else we can help with.

Respectfully,

COVID-19 Enforcement Team
Peterborough Public Health