



2022 Peterborough Public Health Workplace Public Health Measures Survey: Results & Key Findings

March 30, 2022

Introduction:

From February 28 to March 14, 2022, Peterborough Public Health (PPH) conducted an online survey to receive feedback from local businesses and workplaces regarding their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and to gain a better understanding of the supports PPH can provide in the months ahead. The survey was intended for owners, operators, and managers of workplaces, and responding to the survey was voluntary. All responses received were confidential and anonymous and have been aggregated into themes for the purposes of reporting.

The findings from the survey will be used to:

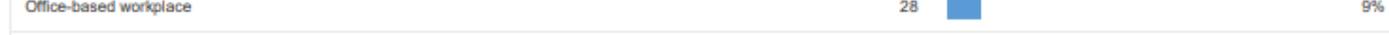
- Improve PPH's workplace communication and engagement strategies.
- Understand the supports that workplaces need during the next phase of the pandemic.
- Gain a better understanding of the workplace sectors that will continue to apply public health measures and which measures will be continued.
- Inform and guide future PPH priority setting during the ongoing COVID-19 response.

Survey Participants

A total of 384 respondents initiated the survey. Of the 384 survey respondents, 84% (n= 323) indicated that they were an owner, operator, manager, or supervisor at a workplace and their answers are captured in this summary. 217 people answered every question in the survey. Survey results detailed in this summary are reported per question, and percentages are based on the number of people that answered the specific question.

In this question, n = 302, survey respondents indicated that they worked in a variety of sectors, with food premises representing the largest group of respondents. "Other", being the second most selected response, came from a variety of workplaces not categorized into one theme, but rather ranging from veterinary clinics to marinas to furniture stores and many others in between.

In your engagements with PPH, which sector are you part of/do you represent? Please select one:

	Count	% of responses	%
Food premises	73		24%
Other, please specify	46		15%
Place of worship	33		11%
Sports and recreation	29		10%
Office-based workplace	28		9%
Retail	27		9%
Personal service settings (e.g. hair salon/barber shop, nail salon, tattoo parlour, etc.)	25		8%
Meeting and event space	14		5%
Arts, culture, special events	8		3%
Tourism	7		2%
Property manager or landlord of multi-unit dwelling	5		2%
NGO	5		2%
Day and/or overnight camp	2		1%

Survey Results:

Resources and support received from PPH:

- A total of 233 out of 299 (78%) respondents to this question, “Have you received resources from PPH throughout the pandemic?”, indicated that they had received resources from PPH throughout the pandemic.
- Email updates, websites, templates/checklists, and posters were cited as the most commonly used PPH resources throughout the pandemic.
 - Of 198 respondents who answered this question, 35% found email updates from PPH to be most helpful, followed by 15% who identified the PPH website as the most helpful.
- Newspaper articles, radio advertisements, TV clips, webinars, and YouTube videos were cited as the least used resources.

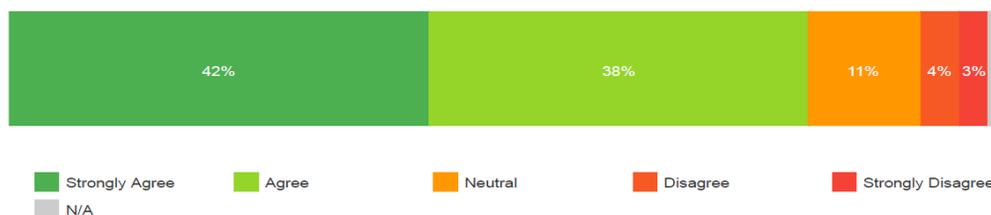
What PPH resources have you used or referred to throughout the pandemic? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
E-mail updates	204		89%
PPH Website	130		57%
Templates/Checklists	97		42%
Print media displayed at workplace or business (i.e. posters, brochures, etc.)	96		42%
Social media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook)	67		29%
Online content (i.e. PPH Google ad, Facebook ad, etc.)	64		28%
Newspaper or magazine article	25		11%
Radio announcements	21		9%
Segment or interview on TV	19		8%
Videos on YouTube	16		7%
Webinar led or facilitated by PPH	16		7%
Other, please specify	12		5%
Did not use or refer to PPH resources	8		3%

N 229

- Of 204 respondents, 78% either agreed or strongly agreed with the following statement: *I am satisfied with the resources provided by PPH to implement COVID-19 prevention measures at my workplace/setting.*

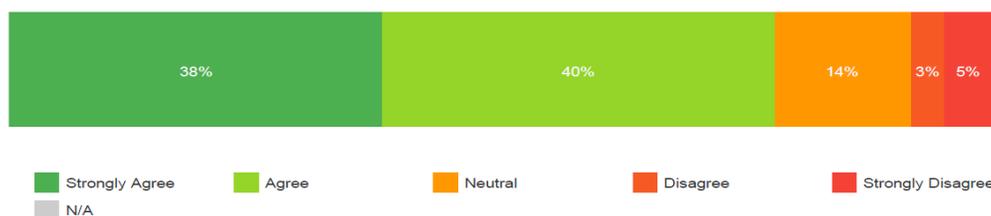
I am satisfied with the resources provided by PPH to implement COVID-19 prevention measures at my workplace/setting.



N 204

- Of 205 respondents, 78% either agreed or strongly agreed with the following statement: *The advice and recommendations I have received from PPH have been easy to understand.*

The advice and recommendations I have received from PPH have been easy to understand.



N 205

Resources and support needed in the future from PPH:

- In the weeks and months ahead, survey respondents reported that they would like to receive from PPH:
 - information about rules and regulations;
 - sector specific COVID-19 information (e.g., meeting & event spaces, performing arts, places of worship, etc.);
 - scientific updates about COVID-19;
 - data about the pandemic (i.e. case counts, deaths, hospitalizations, etc.);
 - vaccine clinic locations and schedules;
 - testing, isolation, and contact tracing information; and
 - mental health information and ways to cope with pandemic fatigue.
- The majority (60% or 125/210) of respondents indicated the Website as the best way to communicate with their business/workplace; 53% of respondents (112/210) indicated the best form of communication would be through a 'listserve' or email communication.

Moving forward, what are the three best ways to communicate with your business or workplace? Select up to 3 options:

	Count	% of responses	%
Website	125		60%
'Listserve' (i.e., e-mail communication to a specific group, with specific content for that group)	112		53%
Social media	56		27%
Recorded webinars (i.e., PPH content available on YouTube)	49		23%
Other, please specify	39		19%
Through member supporting agencies (i.e., PPH content shared through the DBIA, Chamber of Commerce, etc.)	35		17%
Live webinars	21		10%
Local radio stations	18		9%

N 210

This was a multiple response question where each respondent could select up to 3 options, which is why the overall percentage totals more than 100%.

Continuation of public health measures by businesses and workplaces:

- Most businesses and workplaces who responded indicated that they will most likely continue “enhanced cleaning of commonly and frequently touched surfaces”, offering hand sanitizer throughout their establishment and continue with enhanced cleaning and disinfection.
- Only 20-40% of the businesses and workplaces who responded indicated that they will most likely continue with other public health measures such as masking requirements for workers and/or patrons, vaccine policies for staff, physical distancing requirements for staff, and paid sick days for staff.
- Proof of vaccination requirements for patrons was the least likely public health measure that will be continued by businesses and workplaces.

On a scale of 1 (being least likely) and 5 (being most likely), when Public Health Measures (i.e. Proof of Vaccine, capacity limits, physical distancing, enhanced cleaning, etc.) are lifted on March 1, how likely is it that your business or workplace will continue to implement any of these measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19?

	Count	% of responses
Hand sanitizer available throughout your premises	214	
Enhanced cleaning of commonly and frequently touched surfaces	213	
Masking requirements for indoor employees	212	
Paid sick days for employees	199	
COVID-19 vaccine policy for staff	209	
Masking requirements for indoor patrons	209	
Physical distancing requirements of at least 2m for employees	209	
Physical distancing requirements of at least 2m for patrons	208	
Capacity limits for patrons	207	
Proof of vaccine for patrons	207	



- Survey respondents indicated that to continue with public health measures at their establishment, they would need:
 - current information about the ongoing pandemic;
 - rationale documents supporting more public health measures;
 - to see case counts increase;
 - to see hospitalizations, increase; and/or
 - be legislated to do so.

Key Findings and Next Steps:

Key Findings:

- Businesses and workplaces find it most helpful when clear and concise information is delivered directly through digital means to their business/workplace.
- PPH’s website needs to be kept up to date with current information and requirements.
- Main stream media was not reported as a primary method for businesses and organizations to learn COVID-19 information.
- Overall, workplaces and businesses were satisfied with the materials PPH produced over the last two years, with 70% agreeing or strongly agreeing with that statement. Additionally, 78% agreed or strongly agreed that the advice and recommendations we provided were easy to understand.
- There is varying interest among local businesses and workplaces to continue with public health measures, either for patrons or for staff. Available hand sanitizer and cleaning/disinfection protocols are cited as the most common practices to be continued. In order to continue with mask requirements, physical distancing, or other staff policies, there would need to be mandated requirements, or a clear rationale that demonstrates the ongoing need.

- There were some comments captured in the open-ended portion of the survey where respondents described pandemic fatigue, disagreement with local, provincial and federal health authorities and their approaches, and dissenting views from established scientific bodies like the Centres for Disease Control, Health Canada, and Public Health Ontario.

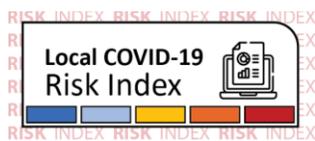
Next Steps:

PPH is dedicated to working with our partners and will:

- share data/evidence about the local COVID-19 context, and fully explain the rationale for any local mandates that might be required in the future;
- commit to maintaining up-to-date COVID-19 information and resources for businesses/workplaces;
- commit to emailing pertinent information to applicable sectors, when updates or changes need to be shared;
- continue to explore novel approaches to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in our community;
- maintain a strong digital presence (website and via social media); and
- continue to foster important relationships with the businesses, workplaces, and organizations in our community.

New Resources:

COVID-19 Community Risk Index



Peterborough Public Health released a beta-version of its new online [COVID-19 Community Risk Index](#) to help residents protect themselves and others when local transmission levels are high. The COVID-19 Community Risk Index incorporates data such as wastewater surveillance signals, number of hospitalizations and deaths, percent positivity of PCR tests and community-reported rapid-antigen tests (through Peterborough Public Health’s [online survey](#)), and the local case incidence rate per 100,000. The Index provides a risk level for each data point based on current values, which is then used to inform the overall risk level for the community.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Monitoring for Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

Increasing air circulation, using air filtration, and removing pollutants can improve indoor air quality. Risk of illness (from exhaled breath that might have viruses or bacteria in it) can be reduced with good ventilation and air filtration. Reducing the number of people in the room will also decrease risk. Air filtration units will only remove particles from the air, not CO₂. Monitoring for CO₂ is one way you can reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission indoors.

- [Carbon Dioxide \(CO₂\): Monitoring for Indoor Air Quality](#)
- [Peterborough Library to lend carbon dioxide monitoring devices](#)