

COVID-19 Tele Town Hall

May 5, 2021

Approved by Peel Public Health on May 14, 2021



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

A Tele Town Hall meeting was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 to provide important updates to the vaccine roll out in Peel Region, necessary restrictions for Mississauga residents and businesses to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and address questions and concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please find below, a summary of the question themes received during the Tele Town Hall and corresponding answers. Questions marked with an asterisk (*) were logged by town hall moderators but were not responded to during the live session due to time constraints.

It is important to note that the responses to question themes reflect the information available at the time of the Tele Town Hall. Due to the changing nature of the pandemic, residents are encouraged to use the following resources:

- Visit mississauga.ca/covid or follow our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) channels for the latest updates on actions taken by the City of Mississauga.
- Visit the Region of Peel's website at peelregion.ca/coronavirus for vaccine and health information.
- Visit Ontario Government's Vaccine Booking site at: covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/

Vaccine Eligibility

When will we start vaccinating 16+ since the vaccine is approved by Pfizer?

The intent is to get as many vaccinated as possible. Vaccinations of those under the age of 18 will begin when direction is received from the Ontario Government. The Ontario Government makes decisions on the age eligibility and makes sure that is a provincewide direction.

Can people who work in Peel get vaccinated even if they don't live there?

If you are eligible according to the Ontario Government, you can book at any clinic in Ontario. Province-wide, individuals who cannot work from home who fall under Group One and Group Two of essential workers are eligible to be vaccinated.

The Region of Peel is focused on vaccinating as many of our residents as possible. Please visit [Peel Region's website](#) to learn if you are able to book based on the sector you work in.

Who can book a second dose early?

The Ministry of Health has confirmed there are certain situations in which someone should get the second dose within 21 days of receiving the first dose. Those situations, like receiving treatment for blood cancers and organ transplant patients are outlined [here](#).

Can I get the vaccine if I am pregnant?

Vaccines are approved and recommended for anyone who is expecting a child. You may wish to speak to your primary care provider about any specific issues related to your pregnancy. Health Canada has shared [guidance on vaccines](#) for pregnant or breastfeeding individuals.

Are all people born in 2003 permitted to get the shot, even if they are not 18 yet?

Moderna requires the person receiving the vaccine to be at least 18 years at the time of the vaccination. Pfizer has been approved for those over the age of 12 however planning is occurring for those aged 12-17. At this time, anyone born in 2003 is eligible to book a vaccination but will not be offered Moderna if they are not 18 at the time of the appointment.

What should we do if we aren't ready for the vaccine?

There are still many questions around this vaccine and the virus in general. The vaccines that are being used are approved and effective. Side effects are very rare. COVID-19 has long lasting effects. The sooner you get a vaccine, the sooner we can get back to normal.

Will there be a home mobile service to give vaccine and if so, when will it be operational?

Currently Peel is rolling out an in-home vaccination program for homebound adults. Homebound residents are people who live in Peel and cannot physically leave their home to receive the vaccine. This could be due to medical, social, or other cognitive reasons.

To sign-up for an in-home vaccine, you can complete [a form on the Peel Public Health website](#).

Vaccine Information

Do you need a second dose if you recovered previously from COVID-19?

Yes. It's recommended that you get both doses as its unknown how long the antibodies from the virus stay in your immune system.

Why are second doses delayed?

The second dose interval in Ontario has been set to allow as many Ontarians to receive their first dose as possible. mRNA vaccines work by taking the first dose, which trains your immune system on how to respond if you come in contact with COVID-19. The second dose boosts that response to make sure it knows how to respond and fight off the virus. The more first doses in arms, the better.

Will second doses be offered sooner than 4 months?

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Second doses will be offered 4 months after getting the first dose. Depending on the supply the time between first and second doses may decrease based on provincial direction. Research indicates lower community transmission based on getting first dose coverage, which will remain the focus. At the time of receiving your first dose, your second dose appointment will be booked.

Is it safe to mix vaccine types? Should you refuse it if it's not the same brand?

Mixing of vaccine type is currently being studied and more information on the effectiveness of this practice will come from the Federal Government. At this time, you will only be offered the type of vaccine you received in your first dose.

What websites can I share with family members who are reluctant to be vaccinated?

There are three levels of government sharing information:

- Regionally – you can share resources from [Peel Public Health](#)
- Provincially – you can share resources from [Ontario Health](#).
- Federally – you can share resources from [Health Canada](#).

You may also get resources from your primary care provider, wellness programs you belong to, your health and safety team at your place of employment or other community groups.

Is The Region of Peel prepared to roll-out the high volume of vaccinations being allocated to our community?

Yes, the Region of Peel continues to administer as many vaccines as possible in the mass vaccination clinics and through other channels (e.g., pharmacy, pop-up clinics). There are currently 25,000+ appointments across the Peel system every day (fixed clinics, mobile clinics, pop-ups, pharmacy and primary care).

Are there new vaccination clinics coming to our community?

Peel remains focused on vaccinating as many people as possible per day through our fixed clinics. Capacity at fixed clinics has increased recently due to expanded hours of operation and process efficiencies. Pop-up and mobile clinics are being used to target hard-to-reach residents and communities with low vaccine uptake, and are designed and run in partnership with community organizations. Other channels of vaccination include worksites, community mobile clinics (e.g., at schools, community centres, places of worship), pharmacies and primary care. These are designed and run in partnership with local and provincial stakeholders.

Why are there more pop-ups in Toronto than Mississauga?

Every community is different. Peel's vaccination roll-out has been very successful and looks different because the needs in Peel are different compared to Toronto and other regions

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across Ontario. We have planned our vaccine program, including pop-ups, in close consultation with our healthcare partners and local community organizations to ensure we meet the needs of Peel residents.

Would taking blood thinners reduce the chance of the blood clot in AstraZeneca vaccines?

The use of blood thinners is not recommended to combat blood clots associated with vaccines. The risk of a blood clot is much lower than the chance of catching COVID-19. It is always recommended that you discuss any concerns with your primary health-care provider, especially if you are currently taking blood thinners.

COVID-19 Spread

If someone has been vaccinated, can they transmit the virus to non-vaccinated relatives?

Given that COVID-19 case counts are still high, it's recommended that you continue to follow public health measures like physical distancing and masking as those methods are effective against transmitting the virus. It is possible that a vaccinated person who has been exposed to COVID-19 could transmit the virus to a person that has not been vaccinated. You may experience mild COVID-19 symptoms however the non-vaccinated person may experience severe symptoms and need to be hospitalized.

We expect new data and regulations for vaccinated individuals to be released when community transmission is lowered.

Is COVID-19 airborne?

There is an ongoing debate on this topic and research has proven the virus transmits via both droplets and airborne. Evidence suggests the virus transmits much faster while indoors. If the indoor space is well ventilated, the virus could transmit via droplets. What is known is the measures recommend by Public Health are effective against both airborne and droplet transmission and should be adhered to.

How is it possible that with the increased number of vaccinations, there is an increase number of COVID-19 cases?

The new variants are highly transmissible and cause more severe illness. The virus has mutated and it's spreading faster than the original virus. The third wave has been the worst which is why we're seeing increased cases.

How many new cases are asymptomatic?

Approximately 10 per cent of cases are asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms.

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Regulations

Who defines what is essential or not?

The Government of Ontario defines essential and non-essential sectors. That also includes the essential items that are sold in stores. Government of Ontario's regulations are used to enforce rules in the community.

Will schools open up in June if the numbers go down? Will schools open in September?

It's hopeful that by September, schools will safely re-open and children will have a much more normal school year. For June, it will be hard to tell as COVID-19 cases are just starting to stabilize. It will really depend on the next few weeks and what happens with the case counts.

Will restaurant patios open up anytime soon?

We're hopeful that since outdoor transmission is lower, they will open soon but this decision is made by the Ontario Government. Factors such as lower ICU hospital admissions, high vaccine coverage rates and reduced community transmission are factors that will help.

Are personal service businesses permitted to operate in their own homes or provide mobile services?*

Right now, the stay-at-home order restricts indoor gatherings to those in your household. Personal services are not permitted to operate inside homes or provide mobile services, even if PPE is worn or services are performed outdoors. Operating a personal care service can result in the service provider or homeowner receiving a ticket up to \$880.

If we remain in a shutdown during the summer, will summer camps be cancelled?*

For summer camps to operate, the City will need to be in at least a Grey-lockdown or ideally a Red-Control zone to allow for a better summer camp experience. If Provincial Regulations permit day camps to operate within our Region, the City will offer summer camp programs in accordance with the established Public Health Guidelines.

Can I have a garage sale?*

Garage sales are not permitted at this time. They are considered an outdoor gathering and the current regulations do not permit any outdoor gatherings with those who you do not live with.

Will vaccine passports be rolled out to verify who had the vaccine or not?

At this time, the Ontario Government has not announced any type of vaccine passport.

Can we resume outdoor sports?

**Question logged, but not answered during the live session, due to time constraints.*

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There needs to be a downward trend in case counts before sports or outdoor gatherings are re-opened. Hopefully this will be soon based on the many advisory tables contributing to decision-making with the Ontario Government.

If you got a first dose vaccine in Toronto, can you book the second dose in Mississauga?

For vaccines booked at mass vaccination centres, second dose appointments are booked at the same location that you received your vaccine. If you are not booked for a second dose, you should contact the clinic where you received your first dose. If you are not able to get a second dose there, you may wish to contact Peel Public Health to confirm an appointment.

For those who received AstraZeneca at a Pharmacy, you will have to wait for further information from the Ontario Government and/or pharmacy on how to book your second dose. At that time, you may be able to switch to another location.

If the goal is to vaccinate 75 per cent of the community, is that the target for re-opening the community? Is there an end-date to the lockdown?

Peel has been in lockdown since November 23, 2020 and the targeted end date of May 20, 2021 was extended to June 2, 2021 based on the current situation. The Ontario Government will decide on when to lift the stay at home order.