

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

A Tele Town Hall meeting was held on Thursday, March 11, 2021 to provide important updates for Mississauga residents and businesses on the topic of COVID-19 and address questions and concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, including information on vaccine roll out in Peel Region.

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 health information.

Frequently Asked Questions

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Obtaining COVID-19 Vaccine

1. Are there mass vaccination sites open in Mississauga?

All the sites and locations listed below are open. As vaccine supply increases, more appointments will become available and hours of operation will be expanded.

There are five confirmed locations in Mississauga:

- 7120 Hurontario – Region of Peel headquarters
- 5500 Rose Cherry Place - Paramount Fine Foods Centre Sportsplex
- 6900 Airport Rd - International Centre
- 3359 Mississauga Rd - University of Toronto Mississauga
- 100 Queensway West – Trillium Hospital (J-wing)

2. Will Mississauga be getting more vaccines than other regions because we are in a hot spot?

At this point in time, the Government of Ontario is allocating vaccines based on population. In Phase 2, we are asking the Government of Ontario to consider more vaccinations to areas like the Region of Peel with higher rates of community transmission.

3. Are there any plans to operate vaccination sites 24 hours a day?

When vaccine supply increases, Peel Public Health will consider a pilot to understand if there is enough demand to transition our clinics to 24-hour operations. Currently, most clinics are open from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily.

4. Are proof of vaccine receipts being distributed with vaccines?

When someone receives their vaccination, a receipt is provided that shows the date and type of vaccine administered.

5. Do we know when pharmacies will start giving COVID-19 vaccines?

Peel Region is not part of the [Ontario Government pilot](#) for vaccines in pharmacies. In Phase 3, as vaccine supply increases and there are more options available in terms of vaccines that don't require rigorous handling, we hope to offer vaccinations in pharmacies.

6. When the provincial website goes live on Monday (March 15) should we use that portal or the Trillium website?

Trillium Health Partner's website will continue to take appointments and pre-registrations for Mississauga. For Peel Region, we will not be integrating directly with the Provincial site. If you've already pre-registered for an appointment with Trillium, there is no need to pre-register again.

7. What happens if you live in another region than your primary care provider?

Peel vaccination sites are open to Peel Region residents. If you qualify for a vaccination through a primary care provider and are offered an opportunity to get the vaccine outside of Peel, it is recommended that you take the opportunity.

8. Is Vaccine going to be made mandatory?

The vaccine is not mandatory, but recommended.

9. When can ages 70+ pre-register for their vaccination?*

Depending on supply, you're on the next age group which could be April or sooner. There will be many websites and communications that will notify residents that Peel Region is ready to transition to the next age group. Check the [Region of Peel Public Health website](#) and the [Trillium Health Partners website](#) to see when the next age group is called upon.

10. Can I request which vaccine I'd like to get?*

Individuals cannot choose the vaccine they receive. Vaccine distribution is managed by the Ontario Ministry of Health.

11. How will residents know it is their turn to receive the vaccination?*

Peel Public Health will update the website with the current phase, as well as reach out through many other channels to communicate information and updates. This includes: social media, local media advertising, community outreach programs and many other ways. We ask that residents wait to call or register online, until their age group is called upon.

12. How is age determined? By year of birth or full birthday date?*

For the current eligibility appointment booking is available to those who are turning 80 in 2021. For the current age group, the date of birth must be 1941 or earlier. For example: If a resident is born in December 1941, they are eligible for their vaccination. This would also apply to future age groups that are called up based on the resident's age in 2021.

Vaccine Prioritization

13. If residents are immunocompromised, when will they get their vaccines and which one?

Those who are immunocompromised and those with chronic health conditions are part of Phase 2. Right now, Peel Public Health is currently working on Phase 1 and an update will be shared with residents through various channels when we are ready to enter Phase 2.

Similar to other vaccinations, it is recommended that you consult your health care provider to ensure the vaccine is recommended for your specific medical condition or with medications you are taking.

14. Will the next group of vaccinations be prioritized by age alone, or other criteria?

[Phase 2](#) includes those with chronic health conditions and adults 60 to 79. Once we enter Phase 2, vaccine appointments will open for those who have chronic health conditions, and then by age descending in 5 year increments.

15. Have Peel police officers been vaccinated for COVID-19?

Frontline workers like firefighters, police and paramedics are currently in the process of being vaccinated.

16. How will residents who are homebound or have mobility issues get vaccinated?

We are working with community groups to assess the needs of home-bound residents. Once vaccine supply increases and the ability to transport vaccinations becomes easier, we are hopeful to have mobile vaccination clinics and other unique vaccination services that meet the needs of our community. Right now, Peel Public Health just needs more supply to start to expand its offerings.

17. When will the group homes in Mississauga be vaccinated?

Group homes are part of [Phase 2](#), which will be called upon shortly for vaccinations.

Vaccine Safety

18. How safe is the AstraZeneca vaccine? If I don't choose to have this vaccine, can I choose other ones that are coming down the line?

Peel Health recommends that when you are called upon for a vaccination appointment, you take the first one available for your age group or health status. All vaccinations go through a rigorous review with Health Canada. The first vaccine you are offered is the safest.

19. Is it safe to wait 16 weeks between doses?

The decision to extend the time between doses was based on two factors. First, the evidence based on real-life data happening in other countries suggests that immunity is strong enough after one dose and waiting a longer duration between both doses is safe and remains an effective defense against COVID-19. Second, it allows us to administer more first doses to help vaccinate more of the population.

20. Should those who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 still receive the vaccination?

There is not enough evidence to determine how long the antibodies stay in your system after you recover from COVID-19, which is why it is still recommended that recovered patients get the vaccination when they become eligible.

21. Is it safe to get the first shot from one manufacturer than have the second shot from a different manufacturer from the first?

It is recommended that you are consistent in getting the same manufacturer of both doses. There are no studies available on mixing doses.

COVID-19 Variants

22. Is there an increase of the COVID-19 variants in Peel Region?

Currently, over 30 per cent of the new cases in Peel Region are considered one of the Variants of Concern (VOC). This translates into over 1000 cases. These variants are known to be more transmissible. It is a crucial time to make sure these variants of concerns do not begin to spread in our community.

Current Measures

23. If cases continue to rise after we enter the Red-control zone, would we go back into lockdown again?

The Government of Ontario has a plan in place called an 'Emergency Brake' that would allow a region experiencing high transmission or case counts to be put back into lockdown. We are

hopeful that with the current measures and the vaccination supply increasing, that this will not happen in our Region. Like other lockdowns, we follow the latest advice from the Government of Ontario and Peel Public Health's Medical Officer of Health to make the best decision to keep our hospitals under capacity and our residents safe.

**24. What are the regulations for retirement homes that have been fully vaccinated?
What is the plan around opening these up for visitation?**

It is recommended that we continue to follow public health measures even after vaccination, and also ensuring that we continue to keep COVID-19 out of congregate senior residences. We are awaiting direction from the Government of Ontario on what regulations look like when we get more of the population vaccinated.

Social Gatherings and Organized Public Events, including sports

25. What is the forecast for the summer as far as parks opening up and organized team sports?

At this time, City parks are open but organized sports are not permitted under the Grey-lockdown zone, which is where we currently are in the colour-coded framework. In the Red-control zone, team sports are permitted for practices only. Peel Region needs to be in the Orange zone to allow team sports.