

February 16, 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

As of February 10th, 2021 the Province of Ontario started to transition each local public health region to a revised [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#) which includes a regional colour coding system: Green (Prevent), Yellow (Protect), Orange (Restrict), Red (Control) or Grey (Lockdown). The COVID-19 restrictions for a local public health region will be determined based on various metrics related to a region's epidemiology, health system capacity and public health system capacity.

Given the growing number of local public health regions with high rates of COVID-19 transmission located in close proximity to the Peterborough Public Health (PPH) catchment area and particularly the circulation of [COVID-19 variants of concern](#), as well as the provincial guidance to avoid non-essential travel and ensure that physical distancing is not compromised, I am urging all local municipalities to consider implementing the following recommendations regarding the provision and use of municipal facilities:

- Restricting the use and rental of municipal facilities to only those residing within the geographic area served by PPH and leagues who 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
 - Teams must be from the PPH region (i.e. no teams from jurisdictions outside of the PPH region)
- Deny the use and rental of municipal facilities for any non-essential purpose that would be likely to draw a crowd and compromise physical distancing, such as craft and vendor markets, bridal shows, and trade shows
- Ensuring that municipal staff inform any person organizing the use of any municipal facility or space, that it is the organizer's obligation to:
 - prevent attendance by persons from regions outside of the PPH area; and
 - produce to the municipality a complete [COVID-19 safety plan](#) that explains how public health measures including screening, cleaning and disinfection, physical distancing, capacity limits, contact tracing, etc., will be implemented.
- Operating ice rinks and skating surfaces as outdoor recreational amenities with stricter requirements than what is permitted in [O. Reg. 364/20](#), including:
 - promoting these amenities to be for outdoor recreational skating only;
 - advising that sports must not be practiced or played on these shared amenities; and
 - ensuring that all skating amenities are appropriately signed with capacity limits and COVID-19 precautions.

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 ensure that businesses and schools remain open and to safeguard against this virus now, and beyond. 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.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Salvaterra". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosana Salvaterra, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health