

**Health
Services**

Office of the
Medical Officer
of Health

PO Box 667
RPO Streetsville
Mississauga, ON
L5M 2C2
tel: 905-799-7700

peelregion.ca

C L A S S O R D E R
BY ASSOCIATE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
RE: IN-PERSON CHILD ATTENDANCE RESTRICTIONS

Made pursuant to Section 22(5.0.1) of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*

Date: April 5, 2021

TO: All persons, including corporations, boards, and directors, who own, occupy, are in charge of, or administer schools and private schools within the meaning of the *Education Act* located in The Regional Municipality of Peel (Region of Peel)

I, Dr. Monica Hau, Associate Medical Officer of Health for The Regional Municipal of Peel, Peel Public Health Unit, order you to comply with the requirements listed below and to take and/or refrain from taking any and all actions necessary to ensure compliance, effective 12:01am on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, and ending on Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 11:59 p.m., unless extended by the Associate Medical Officer of Health:

1. Suspend all in-person teaching and instruction in schools and private schools within the meaning of the *Education Act*.
2. Despite section (1), schools and private schools within the meaning of the *Education Act* may open,
 - a) to the extent necessary to facilitate the operation of a child care centre within the meaning of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, provided that the child care centre shall not provide a program of before or after school child care, or child care, or authorized recreational or skill building, all as defined in the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, to a child whose school or private school is not permitted to provide in-person teaching or instruction to the child pursuant to this Order, or to a child who was enrolled in school or private school immediately prior to the closure of a school or private school by this Order;
 - b) for the provision of emergency child care for the children of individuals listed in Schedule 5 of Ontario Regulation 82/20 during the period when schools or private schools are not permitted to provide in-person teaching or instruction;
 - c) to allow staff of the school or private school to provide remote teaching, instruction or support to pupils, so long as the school or private school operates in accordance within sufficient health and safety protocols, including those issued by the Ministry of Education.
3. Suspend all in-person camps including such as defined in s. 4(1)9. of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.
4. Suspend all in-person authorized recreational or skill building programs including such as defined in s. 2(1) and s.6(4) of the *Child Care and Early*

Years Act, 2014.

THE REASONS for this ORDER are that:

1. COVID-19 is a disease of public health significance and has been designated as communicable under Ontario Regulation 135/18 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization.
2. COVID-19 is present in the Region of Peel and therefore poses a risk to the health of the residents of the Region of Peel through community transmission. The COVID-19 virus (SARS CoV-2) is spread from an infected person to another person by direct or indirect contact or when respiratory secretions from the infected person enter the eyes, nose or mouth of another person.
3. The risk of transmission of COVID-19 is greatest in close contact environments, including schools, where persons are within two metres and/or without face coverings and/or where there is poor ventilation. Persons may be infected with COVID-19 without showing symptoms, and may spread COVID-19 to students, staff, and other persons within these facilities, their families, and others they come into contact with.
4. Mutations of the COVID-19 virus (SARS CoV-2) have been observed globally. Viruses, in particular RNA viruses such as coronaviruses, constantly evolve through mutations, and while most will not have a significant impact, some mutations may provide the virus with a select advantage such as increased transmissibility and severity of illness. Such mutations are cause for concern and need to be monitored closely. New COVID-19 variants of concern that are more transmissible are appearing in settings across the greater Toronto area including the Region of Peel and increasing as a share of confirmed cases. COVID-19 variants of concern have now been identified in schools, among many other settings.
5. Peel Public Health has now observed outbreaks involving variants of concern that are larger than non-variants of concern outbreaks of COVID-19. The number and size of these variants of concern outbreaks are increasingly causing more school-related transmission and school closures than previous waves of COVID-19. Local health care capacity and public health capacity continue to be strained to respond to these cases in a timely manner.

I am of the opinion, on reasonable and probable grounds that:

- a. a communicable disease exists or may exist or there is an immediate risk of an outbreak of a communicable disease in the health unit served by me;
- b. the communicable disease presents a risk to the health of persons in the health unit served by me; and
- c. the requirements specified in this Order are necessary in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to health presented by the communicable disease.

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I am also of the opinion that the delivery of notice of this Order to each and every member of the class is likely to cause a delay that could significantly increase the risk to the health of any person residing in the health unit, so notice shall be provided through the public media and the internet via posting on the Region of Peel public website: <https://peelregion.ca/coronavirus/>

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT each member of the class is entitled to a hearing by the Health Services Appeal and Review Board if the member has delivered to me and to the Health Services Appeal and Review Board, notice in writing, requesting a hearing within 15 days after publication of this Order. At the time of this Order, all requests for appeals and reviews, submissions, materials, and inquiries must be sent to the Health Services Appeal and Review Board by e-mail to hsarb@ontario.ca or faxed at 416-327-8524. See: <http://www.hsarb.on.ca/> for current information.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT although a hearing may be requested this Order takes effect when it is delivered to a member of the class or brought to the attention of a member of the class.

FAILURE to comply with this Order is an offence for which you may be liable, on conviction, to a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 (for an individual) or \$25,000 (for a corporation) for every day or part of each day on which the offence occurs or continues or, should a ticket be issued to you, to a fine in the amount of \$750.00.



Monica Hau, MD MSc CCFP FRCPC
Associate Medical Officer of Health
The Regional Municipality of Peel, Peel
Public Health
7120 Hurontario Street
PO Box 667 RPO Streetsville
Mississauga, ON L5M 2C2

This Order shall be posted on the Peel Public Health website:
<https://peelregion.ca/coronavirus/>

Inquiries about this Order should be directed to the Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 or for Caledon 905-584-2216.