

**Peel HIV/AIDS Network**

160 Traders Blvd.  
Unit 1  
Mississauga, ON  
905-361-0523  
Hours: Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**John Howard Society of Peel-Halton-Dufferin**

100 Queen St. W.,  
Brampton, ON  
905-459-2205  
Hours: Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Healthy Sexuality Clinics:**

(call for hours of operation)

150 Central Park Dr., Suite 9  
Brampton, ON  
905-791-5905

18 King St. E.,  
Courtyards of Caledon  
2nd Floor, Suite D-8  
Bolton, ON  
905-791-5905

325 Central Pkwy. W., Unit 21  
Mississauga, ON  
905-270-0587

6975 Meadowvale Town Centre Cir.,  
Mississauga, ON  
905-270-5662

2227 South Millway,  
2nd Floor, Mississauga, ON  
905-820-3663

7330 Goreway Dr., (lower level)  
Malton, ON  
905-791-7800, ext. 7483

**ALL SERVICES ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

For more information about our services,  
please contact us at Cell: 647-225-1623  
Peel Public Health: 905-799-7700  
[www.peelneedleexchange.ca](http://www.peelneedleexchange.ca)



**PEEL WORKS NEP > NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
A POINT OF REFERENCE**

**INJECTION DRUGS**

**REDUCE YOUR RISK**

## Our Goal

To prevent the spread of hepatitis B and C and HIV/AIDS among people who inject drugs (including steroids) while using a Harm Reduction philosophy.

## Peel Works Provides:

- › Sterile needles\* and equipment
- › Containers to safely dispose used needles
- › Pick up of used needles
- › Information on safer drug use
- › Information on safer sex
- › Free condoms and lube
- › Referrals to other agencies for support and treatment
- › Referrals to a Healthy Sexuality Clinic for anonymous HIV/AIDS testing, hepatitis B and C testing, hepatitis B vaccination, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment

\*The use of the term 'needles' in this brochure refers to the whole injecting device: syringe, plunger, barrel etc.

## Abscesses

- › Signs and symptoms include a reddish swelling that feels hot to touch and may develop a hard, pus-filled core.
- › Abscesses are caused by a bacterial infection in the skin/tissue.
- › To reduce your risk, clean the injection site with an alcohol swab, use sterile equipment and use a different injection site each time you inject.
- › If you see signs of an abscess, see a doctor right away.

## Blood Poisoning (Cotton Fever)

- › Warning signs include chills, fever, vomiting, severe headache and feeling tired.
- › Blood poisoning is caused by a bacterial infection in the blood.
- › To avoid blood poisoning use sterile equipment, sterile water and clean the injection site with alcohol swab.
- › Blood poisoning can kill you. See a doctor right away if you have any of the warning signs.

## The Needle

- › Use a new needle for every injection.
- › Never share needles or borrow them from someone else.
- › Dispose of needles as soon as you are done with them.
- › Exchange used needles for new ones from Peel Works.

## Water

- › Do not use tap water or toilet water!
- › Use sterile water for dissolving drugs.
- › You can get sterile water from drug stores or free from Peel Works.
- › As a last resort, use boiled tap water that has been cooled.

## Safe Disposal of Used Needles and Equipment

- › Never flush needles and equipment down the toilet.
- › Never throw needles and equipment into sewers or garbage cans.
- › Never leave any needles and equipment in a park, playground or other public area.
- › Peel Works provides free sharps containers for used needles and equipment. If you don't have a sharps container, put the used needles and equipment in a puncture-proof container (e.g. bleach container).
- › Bring your used needles and equipment to a fixed site (locations listed on the back) or call Peel Works for a free pick-up.

**Never Share:** Your needles, water, cooker, filter or tourniquets.

**New Equipment:** Use new needles and equipment every time you inject.

**Keep It Sterile:** Wash your hands and the injection site before touching anything or anyone. Use a new alcohol swab on your cooker and another new swab on both your fingers and the injection site before injecting.

**Safe Disposal:** Peel Works provides free sharps containers for used needles and equipment. If you don't have a sharps container, put the used needles and equipment in a puncture-proof container (e.g. a bleach container) and drop it off at a fixed site (locations listed on the back) or call Peel Works for a free pick-up.

## Did You Know?

Injection drug use is the number one mode of hepatitis C transmission and the number two mode of HIV transmission.

Small amounts of blood are often left in used needles and on equipment such as spoons and filters. Therefore, sharing needles and equipment for any injection can pass on blood borne infections such as HIV and hepatitis B and C, if one of the users is infected.