March 20, 2020

Dear Faith Community Leaders,

Subject: Peel Public Health Update re COVID-19

As you know, COVID-19 is a serious public health issue and all levels of government have implemented significant public health measures to help reduce the spread of this disease. On March 17, 2020, the Premier of Ontario declared a state of emergency in Ontario in recognition of the seriousness of the situation.

The new coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is spread person-to-person through large respiratory droplets (e.g. coughing, sneezing) that can travel up to two metres (six feet). Physical distancing (also known as social distancing), or limiting interactions with others, is key to reducing the spread of COVID-19. This is especially important for those who are or live with elderly people or have pre-existing health conditions.

In order to reduce the burden of disease in your community, and in Peel Region, we strongly recommend that you suspend all services and gatherings for the time being. I encourage you to explore virtual options for supporting your community members.

This situation is changing rapidly and the best way to stay informed is through our website at www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus. You will find resources on many topics, including social distancing and self-isolation, as well as the Region of Peel media briefings.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Your truly,

Lawrence C. Loh, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM
Medical Officer of Health (A)