# COVID-19 Response in Peel

## Q&A Notes

Regional Community Response Table Inaugural Meeting
March 23rd, 2020

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<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>COVID-19 Regional Community Response Table Notes of Group Questions &amp; Comments – March 23, 2020</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Business Closures</strong></td>
<td>1. <strong>Question:</strong> How will the mandatory closure of all non-essential businesses from tomorrow onward impact the community further? Is there a process in place to communicate between Region and not-for-profits to support the community? <strong>Answer:</strong> Community agencies are in direct contact with community members that will impacted so they will be the ones to know best. The Region is committed to be a centralized location to put information in one spot so that everyone has access to it.</td>
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| **Funding**         | 2. **Question:** How and when will the Region of Peel be distributing the $200M in funding for non-profits that the Ontario government announced this morning? **Answer:** Region hasn’t been able to get the details. Background: new press release to help the healthy and safety of the province’s most vulnerable people and will also be used for those that don’t qualify for emergency supports. It sounds like a lot but may not go as far as expected. More information will be provided when it becomes available.  
3. **Question:** To redirect funding to be able to better serve clients remotely, what process should we take? Do we send an email to Community Investment Program? **Answer:** Send an email to the mailbox and have a conversation on a case by case basis.  
4. **Question:** How does COVID19 impact current funding streams, like CORE Funding? **Answer:** CORE funded agencies are moving forward status quo but are having broader conversation about how to best support. Stay tuned.  
5. **Question:** The Feds announced over $200M for homelessness and Violence Against Women (VAW) sector. Is this funding siphoned through Reaching Home? **Answer:** The Region has not received funding. Information is to come and will be sent out to everyone in the sector. There were 2 announcements - one for federal funding for homeless and VAW which will be funded through the Reaching Home $ and provincial $ through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative. |
### COVID-19 Regional Community Response Table

**Notes of Group Questions & Comments – March 23, 2020**

| Theme | 6. **Question:** How will the timelines and dynamics for the new CIP grant streams be affected?  
**Answer:** Every aspect of Regional services is impacted. Agencies encouraged to call the Region about individual contracts. The Region will send a message shortly. |
|---|---|
| 7. **Question:** If the agency is not already funded then how do they get support?  
**Answer:** There are a lot of community agencies that don’t receive support from the Region so the Region will need to understand how to best support them. |
| Homeless Shelters | 8. **Question:** Are our front-line **homelessness shelters** and services getting the needed PPE? The Region has done an excellent job on homelessness response and protocols. Is the isolation program up and running now?  
**Answer:** Isolation program up and running as of March 21st. Next step is containment program in the vulnerable community that tests positive. This is to help them have the support they require. All shelters have received PPE and there is a process in place to replenish the resources they need. |
| Human Resource Issues | 9. **Statement:** Peel Leadership Centre – working with a few leaders to have informal conversations once a week to help leaders as they go through HR issues, coaching, and engagement in a virtual workplace. |
| Personal Protective Equipment | 10. **Question:** Are there updates on **Personal Protective Equipment** (PPE) and its availability for colleagues who have to respond on the front lines?  
**Answer:** This is a high-need area and surveys showed that there is a need for PPE. Region will see whether there are extras or availability to provide this to agencies through the Regional Emergency Management. Community partner stated people can go to the Peel District school board because a lot of the schools aren’t being cleaned now. So, a lot of cleaning supplies and gloves can be supplied to agencies in need. |
| Resource Materials | 11. **Question:** Are there in **printed resource materials** can be share with agencies for posting on websites? We have already been posting some stuff on our website once a week. But if the Region has anything extra about COVID-19, would be helpful  
**Answer:** peelregion.ca website is updating information daily. |
| School Board Assistance | 12. **Question:** Are you coordinating with **school boards**? We have young moms who are home schooling and panicking. They don't know how and don't have internet or computer access.  
**Answers:**  
- Region staff will take this back to the school boards. Food and the loss of the food program has been identified as an issue.  
- Vishal (Sai Dham food bank) – the food bank started a new program that delivered breakfast to children at home so they will continue to do this as long as they can.  
- Bhupinder – Peel Children’s Centre crisis line is still open for families so to let them know they are still able to support families and children. |
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- Although EarlyON sites are closed for young children, the Peel Children’s Centre is still offering consultations over the phone and will be able to advise them on strategies.

**Volunteer Efforts**

13. **Question:** How best can non-profit agencies begin to work with the Region to coordinate on the ground volunteer efforts to support vulnerable people in their areas.  

**Answer:** Volunteer Centre for Peel (Volunteer MBC) – already started to have a virtual meeting last Friday with leaders of volunteers to begin coordinated efforts to identify where virtual volunteers can be deployed based on need. ROP and United Way Greater Toronto were on the call. A survey will be sent out later this week to identify the needs. Local ‘caremongering’ groups are a good resource to coordinate with and centralize the collective efforts happening in the Region. UWGT is available to support efforts at local level.