

Investing to build our *Community for Life*



Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on regional services and priorities

COVID-19 response is Peel's top priority

The Region of Peel has been one of the hardest hit communities by COVID-19 in Ontario. Over the last 18 months, the pandemic response has been Peel's top priority. With an "all-hands-on-deck" approach, staff and other resources were redeployed to support the response and mass vaccination program.



2020 – The first year of the pandemic response

In March 2020, Peel started its emergency management before the federal and provincial governments made Declarations of an Emergency. Regional Council quickly announced financial relief measures for tax and ratepayers. Staff were redeployed from across the organization to support a quick response from Public Health. Senior levels of government provided **\$134 million in COVID-related funding** to help offset incremental costs and to provide increased support to the community.

MARCH

- Mar. 10** - Regional Emergency Operations Centre
- Mar. 17** - Provincial **Declaration of an Emergency**
- Mar. 18** - Canada - U.S. border closed
- Region of Peel **Declaration of an Emergency**
- Mar. 27** - Region of Peel announces financial **relief measures**

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 6** - Peel moves into **Red Zone** which implements broader-scale measures and restrictions across multiple sectors
- Nov. 23** - Peel region moved into **Lockdown**

APRIL

- April 11** - Province **extends** emergency orders until April 23

JUNE

- June 2** - Ontario **extends** state of emergency to June 30
- June 6** - Provincial Emergency Orders **extended** to June 19
- June 24** - Peel moves into Stage II framework

DECEMBER

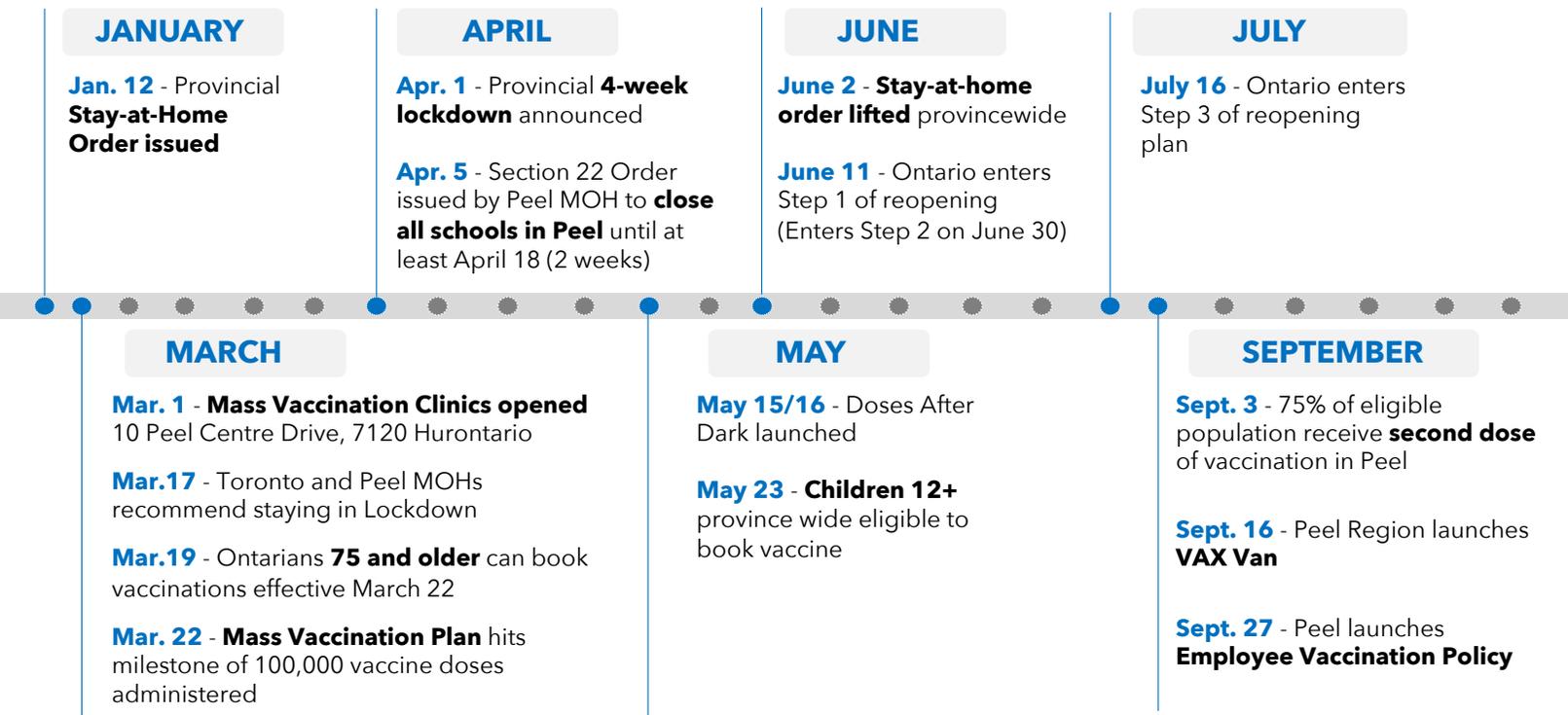
- Dec.** - **Mass Vaccination Planning** begins

The redeployment of staff and resources from non-Public Health services required non-critical activities, services and priorities to be paused or curtailed resulting in surpluses for services that could not be fully implemented.

2021 – Pandemic response PLUS mass vaccination

The pandemic continued into 2021 requiring Peel to continue its COVID-19 response. While stay-at-home orders were issued from the Province, the Region of Peel had begun its planning for one of its largest ever undertakings; the mass vaccination of its residents. With Public Health leading the way, over **1,800 temporary staff** were hired in addition to the **500 staff redeployed** from across the Region of Peel to support the mass vaccination plan. By the beginning of September 2021, 75% of the eligible population had received second doses.

The cost of the mass vaccination alone is projected to be **\$107 million**. To date, the **Province has allocated \$74 million** in mass vaccination funding leaving **\$33 million to be funded**. The Region of Peel believes that the Province will fully fund all costs related to the implementation of the mass vaccination plan.



Services and priorities have been paused or slowed down. The redeployment of staff resources to the provincially funded COVID-19 response, especially those from the three Public Health services (Infectious Disease Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention and Early Growth & Development) will result in year end surplus positions. These surpluses represent work that hasn't been able to be fully delivered such as school vaccinations or the seniors dental program. The degree of back-logged work for other services is currently being assessed.

2022 and beyond: Sustaining our emergency response

As the 2022 Budget was being finalized, Peel was in wave 4 of the COVID-19 with the pandemic expected to continue into 2022. While it's not known what the future of mass vaccination will be, we know that additional staffing and resources need to be in place to sustain the emergency response to support the Peel community as it transitions towards recovery.

If and when the Province formally makes mass vaccination a program, it is expected that these costs along with any other incremental COVID-19 costs will be funded regardless of the year in which it happens. To date, the Province has provided over \$367 million of much appreciated and needed COVID funding to support the Peel community. If the Province ultimately does not fund these costs then options including future property taxes or reducing reserves where feasible will be assessed.



COVID-19 IMPACTS

Peel's Response to the Pandemic

Procured personal protective equipment and infection prevention and control **supplies worth \$3.5M** to support COVID-19 prevention

Procured **supplies worth \$14M** to support mass vaccination clinics

Set up for **8 mass vaccination clinics**, including **over 450 tables and plexiglass barriers, 200 stanchions, 100 mobile carts and temporary wall systems**

1,800+ temporary staff hired to implement the mass vaccination clinics

2.5 million+ doses given to residents by end of October 2021

\$1 million+ allocated to agencies through the Community Response Table

Provided **Isolation housing** for any resident needing to self-isolate due to symptoms or who were COVID-positive

24/7 communications to the community to ensure they were well informed with the latest news and developments; over **27 million impressions** on Twitter

277 COVID-19 related items supported in Council meetings to help Council decision-making

Launched the **Doses After Dark event** the most successful media campaign in the Region's history, vaccinating thousands after hours and increasing vaccine accessibility

Launched the **VAX Van** to travel to underserved communities

\$367 million in COVID funding secured to support the community

