



QUEEN SQUARE DOCTORS

January 2021

PATIENT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2021

CALLING THE CLINIC

We are so sorry that you are having great difficulty reaching us. We are receiving thousands of calls per hour, so it takes a long time to make our way through the queue. You can save a lot of time by booking a telephone appointment on-line. If you need an on-site appointment, call as early as possible. Whenever you are here, make sure that we have your current email address. Also, every time you come in, check to see if we have the right contact information for you! And update your consents too!

REGISTER & BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE!

Medeo

LINE-UPS

Screening for Covid means line ups everywhere, including our clinic. Make sure you wear comfortable shoes and a warm coat in case you have to wait in line for check-in. Have your OHIP card ready.

FORMS, NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

You can now pay on-line using this website and our patient accounts team will send your documents to you by mail or email, so you do not have to come into the clinic to pick them up.

COVID VACCINES

Unfortunately, we do not know where the vaccines will be administered or the timing, and we will communicate this when we do.

ON-SITE CHANGES

- During the COVID season, our office hours have been shortened to 5pm, so getting to us “after work” is hard. We are here everyday, except Christmas Day.
- The waiting area has been modified to ensure physical distancing so we must limit the numbers of patients who can enter the waiting area.
- Our staff are all in PPE and so it is hard to hear us properly when we speak to you. We cannot see your smiles and you cannot see ours!

did you know?

- There are over 30,000 patients at Queen Square!
- We are part of the Ontario Health Team for Brampton-Etobicoke!
- We have 200-800 on-site patient visits per weekday in the clinic!

Covid-19 Vaccines

2020 brought such fear and changes to the way we live our lives. As we begin 2021, there is hope – vaccines are on their way. As you all know, the first vaccines are being given to higher-risk people and healthcare workers. But we look forward to when you all will have access to the vaccine. **We do not yet know where the vaccine will be administered or the timing, and we will communicate this when we do.**



APPROPRIATE STEPS TAKEN

The vaccines were developed so fast because it was a top priority for everyone in the field and billions of dollars from governments and companies around the world were spent on getting it developed. The scientific world cooperated in ways they had not before. The bureaucratic process was super-fast because of the importance of getting this through.

EFFECTIVENESS

In clinical studies, very few people got COVID-19 within 12 days of getting the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. This result is similar to the Moderna vaccine, which is the other COVID-19 vaccine now approved for use in Canada.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

mRNA has been studied and used for cancer treatments for upwards of 30 years, but this is the first vaccine using the technology. There are two vaccines made this way (Pfizer and Moderna). mRNA vaccines cannot give someone COVID-19 as they do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19. They also do not affect or interact with our DNA in any way. There will be other vaccines coming later which are made with older technology. More information is available here.

PREGNANCY/BREASTFEEDING

Pregnant and breastfeeding women were not included in trials for the currently available vaccines. However, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada has stated that “the documented risk of not getting the COVID-19 vaccine outweighs the theorized and undescribed risk of being vaccinated during pregnancy or while breastfeeding and vaccination should be offered.” The Ontario Ministry of Health guidance states that pregnant women should discuss risks and benefits with their family physician or primary healthcare provider”.

The Ontario Ministry also points out that mRNA vaccines are not live vaccines and are not expected to be a risk to the breastfeeding infant. If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, we will discuss the risks and benefits to help you make an informed decision about receiving the vaccine.

AUTOIMMUNE CONDITIONS/IMMUNOCOMPROMISED

If you have an autoimmune or immunodeficiency condition, or are immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment, discuss the benefits and risks of vaccination with your specialist given your particular health condition and come to a decision together. People with these conditions were not included in the trials for the currently available vaccines, although vaccination may be a good idea for you to reduce your risk of getting a COVID-19 infection.

Thank you all for what you have done to keep yourselves, your loved ones, and your communities safe. We look forward to when the vaccine allows us to return to a life that is more connected. In the meantime – Wear a mask, keep your distance, wash your hands. AND be calm, be safe, be kind.

ALLERGIES

People who have ever had a severe allergic reaction (i.e., anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of an mRNA vaccine or any of the ingredients in the vaccine should not receive it. We will discuss any allergies or other health conditions you may have before you receive the vaccine. If needed, we can seek input from an allergist-immunologist.

COVID-19 TESTING CENTRES - PEEL



WITHOUT SYMPTOMS OR EXPOSURE; BY APPOINTMENTS ONLY

- **SHOPPERS DRUGMART**
- **REXALL**
- **PHARMACY IDA**
- **PHARMASAVE**

Call the pharmacy location to make an appointment.

WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND/OR EXPOSURE; BY APPOINTMENTS ONLY

➤ **PEEL MEMORIAL CENTRE**

20 Lynch Street
8:00 am to 7:00 pm
Seven days a week
(905) 487-1249

➤ **QUEEN SQUARE: SNELGROVE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

11692 Hurontario Street
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tuesday to Friday
(905) 453-1453

➤ **BRAMPTON LAWN BOWLING FACILITY**

8910 McLaughlin Road South
Tuesday 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
(905) 796-4922

➤ **EBENEZER COMMUNITY HALL**

4494 Ebenezer Road
Tuesday to Saturday 10:00 am to 8:00 pm
(647) 374-4676

➤ **DYNACARE**

7700 Hurontario Street
Monday to Friday 5:00 am to 8:30 pm
Saturday 1:30pm to 5:00 pm
dyncare.ca/covidtestingontario/aspx

TRAVEL CLEARANCE; BY APPOINTMENTS ONLY

** Effective December 11, 2020 – No Longer eligible for publicly funded in Ontario.

➤ **TRAVEL CLINICS**

Travellers can access private testing facilities.



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