

June 5, 2003

An Open Letter to Parents in Peel,

Please be advised and assured that Peel Health continues to monitor the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and is taking every precaution to protect the health and safety of everyone in the community.

At present, there are no SARS cases in Peel.

Conducting your regular daily activities with your family, such as shopping, dining out and going to recreation centres in the community **DOES NOT** put you at increased risk of getting SARS. It is safe to continue to go to work, attend social events, take classes and lessons, and maintain your daily routine at this time.

Currently, Peel Health continues to identify and monitor Peel residents who were at a small number of Toronto health care facilities during specified dates. The information on affected health care facilities is available at www.region.peel.on.ca and may change as the investigation in Toronto unfolds.

Occasionally, school staff, parents or children may be among those identified as being at these health care institutions and should isolate themselves and call Peel Health at 905-799-7700. Persons who are on home isolation because of possible SARS exposure do not pose a risk to others unless they are ill.

Further information on SARS is available by calling Health Line Peel at 905-799-7700, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The Region's Web site at www.region.peel.ca is revised daily with the most current information, and everyone is encouraged to check it frequently. It is the best source of up-to-date information on understanding SARS and the precautions being taken to reduce the risk of spread in the Region of Peel.

Sincerely,



David McKeown, MDCM, MHSC, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health