

## Media Release

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Date: May 21, 2021

### Mayor's Message

Dear residents of Pembroke,

I am writing to provide a message of excitement and hope, with the beautiful weather we have been having, recent provincial announcement and the expansion of vaccine eligibility categories, we have a lot to look forward to! The Renfrew County and District Health Unit has shared that over 50% of residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. We can expect to see this number grow as this past week vaccine appointment booking opened up to all residents 18 and older.

With regards to vaccines, the Health Unit has asked that as much as possible residents use their [online booking system](#) for vaccine appointments. They have received an overwhelming number of calls and aim to provide all information required on their [website](#) to make things easier and quicker for residents. In order to keep booking and appointments running smoothly, the Health Unit has asked that residents do the following: Book only one appointment per person, keep the appointment you booked and show up for it, and if you need to cancel your appointment do so through the link provided in your confirmation email. The vaccines are a precious commodity, and we need to ensure that they are not wasted.

We received further good news yesterday from the province regarding their [roadmap to safely reopen](#). This is all very positive, and I encourage residents to enjoy the new restrictions while remaining vigilant. Unfortunately, our COVID-19 case numbers are still high in our region. In addition to limiting your close contacts, wearing a mask when you are out in public and staying home if you are sick are essential at this time!

At the City of Pembroke, we are reopening many outdoor amenities. The Kinsmen Park multi-purpose court, tennis courts at Rotary Park, and the Rapids Skate Park will reopen as of Saturday, May 22 at 8:00 a.m. The Pembroke Marina will open from Saturday, May 22 – Monday, May 24 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. daily with limited services. Waterfront public restrooms will also be open. Playgrounds and open parks and trails remain open. We encourage everyone to enjoy the outdoor amenities that they can in a safe manner. If you cannot keep a 2-meter distance in these areas, please wear a mask for the safety of everyone.

I am pleased to share that we have an online survey open until June 7 to better understand the experiences of BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ members of our community. The survey can be accessed by following this link: <http://bit.ly/PembrokeSurvey>. Further, on Wednesday, May 26 at 5:00 p.m. a virtual roundtable will be hosted by the City of Pembroke and members of the Diversity Advisory Committee. The roundtable will be an opportunity for members of the BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ communities to share their

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experiences verbally or offer any suggestions or ideas to move forward. The roundtable will compliment the survey. The roundtable is specifically intended for BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ community members, while the survey is open to anyone. Registration for the roundtable can be done by following this link: <http://bit.ly/PebrokeVirtualRoundtable>.

I encourage everyone to have a safe and happy Victoria Day weekend. There are plenty of COVID-safe outdoor activities in Pembroke. Residents can visit one of the City's many parks, take a walk on the Kiwanis Walkway, or get some take-out from a local restaurant for a backyard picnic. Visit [Pembroke.ca](http://Pembroke.ca) and check out our homepage for [Pembi's Picks](#), a weekly e-newsletter about things to do in Pembroke.

I would once again like to thank our front-line workers, our educators and our local business community who continue to do an excellent job adapting their operations and keeping our community safe. Lastly, as last week was nurse's week, I would like to sincerely thank all the nurses in our area who have been working incredibly hard during this pandemic to keep us all safe, you truly are heroes for our community! It is evident when visiting vaccination clinics just how many healthcare workers are required to make us all safe. Please know that your work does not go unnoticed, and on behalf of our community, thank you!

Thank you, and be well.

Mayor Mike LeMay

For further information on COVID-19, please refer to the following sources:

[The City of Pembroke COVID-19 Updates and Info](#)

[The City of Pembroke COVID-19 Business Resources](#)

[Renfrew County and District Health Unit](#)

[Health Canada](#)

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