



TOWN OF
HALTON HILLS
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

FROM: Aaron Matthews, Director of Facilities

DATE: February 7, 2022

MEMO NO.: RP-2022-0001

SUBJECT: Vaccine Clinic and Test Site Update

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of this memorandum is to update members of council on the Mass Vaccination Clinic at Gellert Community Centre and the potential of a COVID 19 Testing Site at Mold-Masters SportsPlex.

BACKGROUND:

Vaccination Clinic

In 2020 staff began collaborating with Region of Halton to identify a suitable site in Halton Hills for a COVID 19 mass vaccination clinic. After review of several municipal locations, the Gellert Community Centre was determined to be the most appropriate. This culminated in March 2021 when the Mayor and Clerk signed a lease with the Region of Halton for use of the Community Hall at the Gellert Community Centre as a Vaccination Clinic. The initial period identified was from March 2021 until September 2021.

COVID Testing Site

From the outset of the pandemic Halton Health Care has operated a testing location in a portable building on the grounds of Georgetown Hospital. The current space is in the back, maintenance parking lot area. The pandemic has increased the amount of medical personal and support staff who must be on location at the hospital on a given day. This has put pressure on the need to reclaim the parking area occupied by the testing site. As a result, in late 2021 Halton Health Care approached Town staff with a request to a) have a suitable indoor space provided to operate a testing site, or b) provide an outdoor space that a mobile/trailer testing site could be located on.

COMMENTS:

Vaccination Clinic

The hope was that the pandemic would subside, and the Gellert Community Centre site would no longer be needed beyond the September 2021 date. The expansion of age eligibility for vaccines, introduction of booster shots and the onset of the Omicron variant resulted in that the site would be needed beyond September 2021. An extension was granted to December 2021 and now a further extension has been requested and granted to June 30, 2022.

It is recognized that the Gellert Community Centre space is a prime location for recreational programs and activities for residents. Due to either Provincial restrictions limiting activity or that the vaccine clinic is on site the space has not been usable for recreation programs since the clinic began. Pandemic development considered; the Region of Halton is working with Town staff to reduce level of vaccine service during March Break 2022 so that a children's day camp may be offered for the first time since 2019. The June 30 end date of the most recent term extension is tentatively set so that, if there is some semblance of normalcy, summer camp may resume. In consideration of pandemic developments this end date may have to be fluid.

COVID Testing Site

The requirements for an indoor testing site consider cross user impact as persons getting tested may be infected with COVID 19, they should not encounter other facility users. Consequently, it would not be prudent to have a testing site within an operational recreation centre or public building. The Prospect Park Boathouse in Acton was discussed as a potential indoor location as it meets the needs of being an exclusive space but did not meet the requirement of being close to most of the Halton Hills population.

With no indoor option available an alternate solution would be to place the mobile/trailer testing site within a parking area at a municipal facility. Meeting the requirements for power capabilities, parking, easy access, and adjacent indoor washroom facilities for testing site staff was the Mold-Masters SportsPlex facility. The back parking lot (northwest of the Guelph Street entrance) has been identified as suitable.

As Halton Health Care continues to evaluate options and investigate next steps a move to the MMSP location has not yet been occurred. At such time that the site is confirmed, Council will be advised.

CONCLUSION:

This memorandum is intended to provide members of council with an update on the status of the Mass Vaccination Site at Gellert Community Centre as well as information on the potential for a COVID 19 testing site at Mold-Masters SportsPlex.

Reviewed and approved by,

Warren Harris, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer