



**Sent Via Email**

June 30, 2020

Mr. Christopher Raynor, Regional Clerk  
Regional Municipality of York  
17250 Yonge Street  
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1

Email: [regionalclerk@york.ca](mailto:regionalclerk@york.ca)

Dear Mr. Raynor,

**Re: Members Motion of Councillor Liu regarding mandatory face coverings at all municipal buildings and inside commercial establishments**

Richmond Hill Council, at its meeting held on June 24, 2020, adopted the following resolution:

Whereas Health Canada, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization all recommend the use of masks when physical distancing is difficult, particularly in places like stores and on public transportation;

Whereas at her press conference on May 20, 2020, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer emphasized that mandatory masking was a decision for communities;

Whereas studies show that high levels of mask use can help avoid a second wave of infections and a resulting second lockdown that would harm local businesses and our local economy;

Whereas most municipalities across Canada have broad powers to pass by-laws in relation to health, safety, and well-being. Many also have broad powers to make orders under emergency management legislation;

Whereas Section 4(1) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act gives the head of council the ability to make orders they consider necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their residents;

Whereas masks were first recommended by Canada's Chief Public Health Officer on April 6, 2020, but usage of masks remains low and it is now evident that recommendations are insufficient;

Whereas the City of Cote St Luc, Quebec passed a by-law on June 1, 2020, relying on its general health and welfare powers in its enabling municipal legislation;

Whereas the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health issued an order requiring the use of masks in commercial establishments effective June 12, 2020;

Whereas masks are now mandatory on a number of transit systems in Ontario and across Canada;

Whereas Ottawa's recent masks order for public transportation shows compliance of roughly 90%, Guelph's recent masks order shows compliance in the 90-100% range, and, while both have the power to issue fines, neither use enforcement mechanisms and simply rely on education;

Whereas studies show that masks can reduce transmission of COVID-19 but only if a significantly high percentage of our population wears them;

Whereas evidence of mask use around the world shows that high usage of masks can likely only been achieved where masks are already an existing cultural norm or through mandatory masking;

Whereas enforcement concerns around masking are largely unfounded and that laws can play a powerful role in communicating values and creating social norms such that the existence of a by-law alone can increase usage;

Whereas multiple studies show that the use of masks do not distract from physical distancing, rather, masks act as a visible social device to enhance physical distancing;

Whereas matters of public health in the midst of a pandemic impact everyone in our community and should not be left to the discretion of private business or personal choice;

Whereas employees have a right to work in a safe environment and customers should be able to enter a business without unnecessarily increasing their risk of exposure to COVID-19;

Whereas information and case studies are available at [www.masksformunicipalities.ca](http://www.masksformunicipalities.ca)

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Richmond Hill staff to research our municipality's ability to mandate face coverings at all municipal buildings and inside commercial establishments;

Be it further resolved that City of Richmond Hill staff consult the City of Cote St-Luc's By-law No. 2557 and draft a similar by-law to mandate face coverings at all municipal buildings and inside commercial establishments;

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the York Regional Council, Council of other eight municipalities in York Region, local

Members of Provincial Parliament, local Members of Parliament, Association of Municipality of Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

A recorded vote was taken:

In favour: (8): Councillor Liu, Councillor Beros, Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli, Councillor Chan, Councillor Cilevitz, Councillor West, Mayor Barrow, Councillor Muench

Opposed: (1): Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Carried (8 to 1)

In accordance with Council's directive, please find attached a copy of the Member Motion submitted by Councillor Liu regarding mandatory face coverings at all municipal buildings and inside commercial establishments.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk's Office at 905-771-8800.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen M.A. Huycke  
Director of Legislative Services/City Clerk

Attachment