

DEPUTATION IN WRITING

REGIONAL COUNCIL

JULY 9, 2020

Subject: Mandated masking proposal

Spokesperson: Elie Klein

Name of Group or person(s) being represented (if applicable):

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

Dear Regional Clerk and Council,

Regarding the July 9th York Region Council meeting, debate and vote about Markham's mayor proposed mandated masking, I would like to bring the following to the council's attention. If there is a time limit on reading this, please read as much as possible during that time. No need to read out loud the referenced links.

On the matter of mandated masking, the council opens itself to liability for two reasons.

1. The presence of scientific evidence related to various forms of potential harm of use of masks by healthy asymptomatic people
2. The presence of published scientific evidence related to ineffectiveness of wearing masks by healthy asymptomatic people in averting an infection by the SARS COV-2 virus

Potential harm:

Increased risk for infection

Specific to cloth masks: A randomized controlled trial published in the British Medical Journal in 2015 states: "The widespread use of cloth masks by healthcare workers may actually put them at increased risk of respiratory illness and viral infections and their global use should be discouraged, according to a UNSW study." (1)

In their June 5 paper, the World Health Organization (WHO) stated: potential INCREASED RISK OF SELF-CONTAMINATION due to the manipulation of a face mask and subsequently touching eyes with contaminated hands

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

1-877-464-9675 x. 71320
york.ca



The two studies cited are, one from the Canadian Medical Association Journal (2), and the other is from Infection control & Hospital Epidemiology (3).

According to this study by the Journal the Academy of emergency medicine, even trained health practitioners don't use masks correctly to prevent infections, so how can the average person do that? (4)

Masks decrease oxygen levels:

A 2008 study from the Journal Neurocritical Care stated: "In this study we have measured the oxygen saturation of arterial pulsations (SpO₂) by a pulse oximeter and found a statistically significant decrease in the blood O₂ saturation level of the surgeons post operationally, which is not due to prolonged standing or stress." (5)

Decrease in available oxygen has the potential to cause harm to a wide range of individuals with a variety of known and unknown underlying health issues.

Also from the June 5 document presented by the WHO (6)

potential self-contamination that can occur if non-medical masks are not changed when wet or soiled. This can create favourable conditions for microorganism to amplify;

potential headache and/or breathing difficulties, depending on type of mask used;

potential development of facial skin lesions, irritant dermatitis or worsening acne, when used frequently for long hours;(50)

difficulty with communicating clearly;

potential discomfort;(41, 51)

A false sense of security, leading to potentially lower adherence to other critical preventive measures such as physical distancing and hand hygiene;

Poor compliance with mask wearing, in particular by young children;

Waste management issues; improper mask disposal leading to increased litter in public places, risk of contamination to street cleaners and environment hazard;

Difficulty communicating for deaf persons who rely on lip reading;

Disadvantages for or difficulty wearing them, especially for children, developmentally challenged persons, those with mental illness, elderly persons with cognitive impairment, those with asthma or chronic respiratory or breathing problems, those who have had facial trauma or recent oral maxillofacial surgery, and those living in hot and humid environments.

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

1-877-464-9675 x. 71320
york.ca



On the question of effectiveness:

A study published in the well know medical journal the annals of internal medicine stated: “In conclusion, both surgical and cotton masks seem to be ineffective in preventing the dissemination of SARS–CoV-2 from the coughs of patients with COVID-19 to the environment and external mask surface.” (7)

An article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* from May 2020 also comes to the conclusion that respiratory masks offer little or no protection in everyday life. The call for a mask requirement is described as an “irrational fear reflex”. (8)

The WHO moreover stated in their June 5th paper that truly “asymptomatic transmission” is in fact “very rare”, as data from numerous countries showed. Some of the few confirmed cases were due to direct body contact, i.e. shaking hands or kissing and remaining in close contact with infected individuals. (9)

The centre for infections Disease and Policy , in a detailed article, citing many studies,, stated that “There is also no scientific evidence for the effectiveness of face masks in *healthy or asymptomatic* individuals” (10)

As well please consider

- The timing of the proposal, when death rates are the lowest
- Currently in Ontario death rate (calculated by dividing the number of reported Covid deaths by the Ontario population) stands at 0.018% or alternately, 99.928% chance of living, not withstanding that Public health agencies admittedly inflate covid death numbers due to lose criteria for determining how to report covid deaths

All the reasons outlined above, particularly the potential or various forms of harm, opens council to liability should this motion go forward.

Sincerely,

Elie Klein

References:

1. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150422121724.htm>
2. <https://www.cmaj.ca/content/175/3/249>
3. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28606192/>
4. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17898247/>
5. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18500410/>
6. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/332293>
7. <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-1342>
8. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372>
9. <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/who-says-transmission-by-asymptomatic-covid-patients-very-rare/>
10. <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/commentary-masks-all-covid-19-not-based-sound-data>

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

1-877-464-9675 x. 71320

york.ca

