

DEPUTATION IN WRITING

REGIONAL COUNCIL

JULY 9, 2020

Subject: Opposition to the proposal that masks be mandatory in York Region

Spokesperson: Rachel Knight

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

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed mandatory “mask wearing” for York Region on the basis that it places my health at increased risk, it is likely to be of limited value in preventing the spread of COVID19 and that poor handling of masks may actually increase the spread of COVID19 and other diseases.

My principle concerns are:

- It is impossible to handle a mask in a sterile manner outside of a controlled environment. The conditions encountered while performing daily activities make effective use of a mask impossible. Contaminated masks increase the risk of infection to the wearer and to others due to the spreading of disease on contaminated hands. Further to this, it is impossible to ensure that people do not share masks.
- The wearing of a mask for long periods of time creates an unhealthy environment between the mask and the face. Any bacteria or other pathogens that are exhaled or transferred to the interior of the mask due to handling will multiply rapidly on the warm moist mask interior. These pathogens will be deeply inhaled by the wearer, and increase the risk of infection—COVID19 and anything else that may be present.
- Studies have shown that the air quality inside a mask does not meet OSHA guidelines for workplace health and safety. High levels of CO2 and low levels of O2 inside masks result in breathing difficulties, headaches, poor concentration, and in rare cases more severe issues such as fainting.
- There is no oversight for the quality of masks that people are making from household materials. It is impossible to ensure that homemade masks are not being made from fabrics that severely impede oxygen intake or have harmful chemical residues from textile manufacturing.

The material provided by the link below supports my assertions.

<https://masksickness.ca/articles/2020/06/25/masks-dont-work-review-science-relevant-covid-19-social-policy>

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Even casual observation reveals that many people are wearing masks improperly, contaminating their faces with their hands while adjusting uncomfortable masks, or are wearing useless improvised masks. These inevitable actions by the population will counteract any limited benefit of a mandatory mask bylaw.

For myself, when I wear a mask for more than 10 minutes I experience a headache. When my husband wears a mask he complains that his eyes burn. The physical discomfort for both of us does not allow for us to wear masks for any prolonged period of time.

A mask law will force otherwise law-abiding citizens to either break the law or engage in potentially harmful mitigating behaviours to protect their health.

In addition, there may be members of society that will choose to protest in destructive ways that will be detrimental to our community, have consequences for our courts/judicial system and create a further financial burden for the region.

I urge you not to impose this senseless restriction on the residents of York Region.

Sincerely,

Rachel Knight
Holland Landing, Ontario