

DEPUTATION IN WRITING

REGIONAL COUNCIL

JULY 9, 2020

Subject: Please make masks mandatory in York region

Spokesperson: Colleen Barbalinardo

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

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

I'm aware that the York region council is looking at making masks mandatory in indoor facilities in York region. As a resident of Aurora, a health care professional and as someone who has lost both my grandparents to COVID-19 in long term care this month due to the outbreak in the facility, I ask that you make masks mandatory in indoor buildings in public in York region like Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph and Kingston already has.

I work as a health care professional with children who are immunocompromised. I wear a mask, not to protect myself but to protect these children and their families from any exposure. To prevent them from the pain of losing a loved one.

I wear a mask to the grocery store and physical distance because I don't know who I may pass who works in a long term care and could catch the virus from a stranger who is asymptomatic and bring it into their work killing other seniors and loved ones. I wear a mask out of respect for the most vulnerable in our community and so that the economy will stay open and our community will thrive.

Yet, when I go out to the grocery store in Aurora 60 percent of people continue to not wear a mask. People not wearing masks, deciding to squeeze by others at the cash, basically rubbing their body against strangers, to save themselves time. Unfortunately, some people are either uneducated about the severity of this virus or do not have enough respect for others in the community, and I believe a mandatory mask by-law would be very helpful in keeping community safe and thriving, and prevent others from tragically losing loved ones.

Aurora has lost 15 lives out of 115 with COVID. That's a 7.7 percent death rate. It doesn't matter the age of these people. They were loved and were likely not able to be supported by loved ones during their last days due to isolation. The effect of COVID is tragic on our community and to many families losing loved ones. We must follow health recommendations to protect one another over the next year and unfortunately it appears that this needs to be a by-law to enforce this amongst the many people who do not realize the importance of protecting others.

Thank you for your support.

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

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