

# DEPUTATION IN WRITING

## REGIONAL COUNCIL

JULY 9, 2020

**Subject:** Concerns re: mandatory masks

**Spokesperson:** Linda Lombardi

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

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### **Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:**

We have several concerns about making masks mandatory in York Region “in all indoor spaces, and in crowded outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not possible.”

1. Based on your statements that masks provide additional protection from the transmission of COVID-19, what is the basis of the Medical Officer of Health’s decision to recommend that masks be required? References to this material and data should be made publicly available. We have yet to receive a response from any government official including the Mayor, MP, MPP, Medical Officer of Health, or the Prime Minister of Canada as to where the data is coming from. We subscribe to evidence-based medicine and any requirement of this magnitude must be based on scientific proof. As citizens of this region, we request that those who are in a position to render a decision provide references to the sources being utilized to make a judgement on this matter. We have yet to find a source that **conclusively** states that masks are effective in the prevention of infectious disease and are safe for long term wear. In addition, we have **not** found that the goal standard of medical research has been met in any ‘studies’ on the effectiveness of masks in reducing COVID-19 rates, which would require control trials on the subject. According to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the onus lies on the government to justify its violation of a citizen’s rights and the burden is intended by the Charter to be an onerous one. A matter of opinion or assumption is not sufficient justification to infringe upon these rights, even that of the Medical Officer of Health. If York Region is not able to conclusively demonstrate that mandatory mask wearing is reasonable on the basis of credible data, then the region is actively in contravention of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and open to challenges.

2. In considering passing an order such as this, have you taken into account the discrimination that those with disabilities will face? Mandating masks in general is a violation of our Charter of Rights and Freedoms, (s. 7, s. 15 and s. 8). Even if there is a medical exemption, what safeguards have you put in place to protect the rights of people with disabilities to not have to disclose their personal medical information everywhere they go and risk being shamed, shunned and refused service? As I’m sure you’re aware, having to disclose personal medical information violates PIPEDA and the CHRA. How would you educate business owners on these exemptions?

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3. Originally, we were told that measures such as physical distancing, sheltering in place, etc. were implemented to 'flatten the curve'. Now that this has been achieved, what are the criteria for the removal of this mask requirement should this bylaw unfortunately pass? Neither governments nor Public Health officials have stated any objective that can be measured, which is highly disconcerting. It is also baffling that mandating wearing a mask in indoor spaces is being put into place now when cases are on the decline, and not when we were in the peak phase of the pandemic earlier this year. In addition, Toronto Public Health has admitted that "individuals who die **with** COVID-19, but not as a result **of** COVID-19 are included in the case counts for COVID-19 deaths in Toronto." This makes the death counts extremely broad and is a blatant falsification of data which misleads the public as to the actual death rate.

4. In addition, the people that would typically be trusted and respected the most to care for our children's health, namely the medical professionals at Sick Kids, have recommended that children not wear masks as non-medical masks "may reduce transmission from individuals who are shedding the virus, however the extent of this benefit is unknown (especially in children) and would only be potentially beneficial if done properly. In fact, if worn incorrectly, it could lead to increase risk of infection...". These doctors are leading experts in their field and their opinions should be weighted very strongly when making an important decision such as this, one that will have lasting and far reaching implications. I have attached a link to the Sick Kids recommendation for your reference.

<http://www.sickkids.ca/PDFs/About-SickKids/81407-COVID19-Recommendations-for-School-Reopening-SickKids.pdf>

Also included are a couple of additional articles that provide more insight into the mask wearing debate:

Masks Don't Work: A Review of science relevant to COVID-19 social policy:

<https://vaccinechoiccanada.com/wp-content/uploads/masks-dont-work-denis-rancourt-april-2020.pdf>

Neurosurgeon: Masks Pose Serious Risks to Healthy Individuals: <https://principia-scientific.org/neurosurgeon-face-masks-pose-serious-risks-to-healthy-individuals/>

Thank you.

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