

DEPUTATION IN WRITING

REGIONAL COUNCIL

JULY 9, 2020

Subject: Mandatory Mask Proposal

Spokesperson: Edith Burch

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

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

Council Members,

I am opposed to making mask wearing mandatory in York Region. I DO WEAR ONE MYSELF IN INDOOR SPACES AND SOMETIMES OUTSIDE TOO, depending on closeness of others not in my circle. I own several cool locally made ones and always have them in my car and home. I have had them made for friends and try to do all the right things as per health dept directives.

YET it is not offensive to me if someone chooses not to, even without a medical exemption. I understand some people feel they cannot breathe properly with them on, or even believe they will not stop the spread of Covid. We learn so much more about the virus everyday, and while I will play it safe with a mask, time will tell whether that has been the game changer or not.

The biggest issues I see are:

1) How will you identify those that cannot wear them for health reasons?

2) How will you decide about enforcing mask wearing in outdoor spaces? If I am out running, riding, or walking and may pass someone on the trail closer than 2m will I have to wear one? People might then limit their exercise which is so very crucial right now.

3) How will staff at indoor establishments be expected to deal with anyone non-compliant?
Enforcement in general seems overwhelming.

I think each citizen can make the choice they are most comfortable with. Education over force would be my motto.

Yours in community,

Edith Burch

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