

Public Health Considerations of Mandating the Use of Face Coverings as a Measure to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

On July 9, 2020 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. Regional Council endorse the Medical Officer of Health issuing an instruction, consistent with the approach taken by other Public Health Units, effective July 17, 2020 until November 30, 2020, that requires operators of the following enclosed public spaces:
 - (a) premises or any portion thereof which are used as a place of business for the sale or offering for sale of goods or services, and includes a mall or similar structure which contains multiple places of business;
 - (b) churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, or other places of worship;
 - (c) community centres including indoor recreational facilities;
 - (d) libraries, art galleries, museums, aquariums, zoos and other similar facilities;
 - (e) community service agencies providing services to the public;
 - (f) banquet halls, convention centres, arenas, stadiums, and other event spaces;
 - (g) premises utilized as an open house, presentation centre, or other facility for real estate purposes;
 - (h) common areas of hotels, motels and other short-term rentals, such as lobbies, elevators, meeting rooms or other common use facilities; and
 - (i) concert venues, theatres, cinemas, casinos, and other entertainment facilitiesto display York Region-approved signage and to have a policy in place that prohibits persons from entering premises of the establishment if the person is not wearing a non-medical face covering, subject to appropriate exemptions, including children under 5 years' old.
2. That the instruction shall further specify that best efforts shall be made by operators of enclosed public spaces in good faith, to only allow entry to persons wearing a non-medical face covering and that education rather than enforcement shall be the principal objective of the instruction.
3. That the Medical Officer of Health provide an update regarding the implementation of the instructions at the July 30, 2020 Special Council meeting.

Carried Unanimously