

March 15, 2022

Dear Mayors Brown, Thompson, and Crombie,

Re: Recommended Lifting of Mandatory Masking By-laws

The Chief Medical Officer of Health recently announced the removal of mandatory masking requirements in most settings in Ontario, as of March 21st, 2022, with exceptions for specific settings including public transit, health care, long-term care, and congregate living.

Masking has served as an effective public health measure and played a significant role in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting our residents. Masking was a critical measure, particularly in the early phases of the pandemic, when the population was largely unvaccinated and susceptible, and helped mitigate the burden of COVID-19 on our health care system.

At this time, with high community vaccination rates and stable/improving indicators of COVID-19 activity, the COVID-19 context in Peel no longer supports deviation from provincial direction in our community. Therefore, the Region of Peel - Public Health supports alignment with the provincially announced loosening of masking mandates. To this end, **we recommend the lifting of the Mandatory Masking By-laws for the City of Brampton, City of Mississauga and Town of Caledon that are set to expire in the coming weeks** (*note: Brampton set to expire on April 1; Mississauga and Caledon on March 31, 2022*).

As we together enter this next phase of the pandemic in Peel, it is important to note that there will still be circumstances that require masking including legal requirements in certain settings, individuals who are recovering from COVID-19 and/or are close contacts, and those in our community who choose to wear a mask based on their individual circumstances. As we adjust to the changing context of COVID-19, we must remain kind, considerate and respectful towards everyone – regardless of whether they choose to wear a mask or not. The Region of Peel – Public Health will continue to monitor trends in key public health indicators. Should the COVID-19 context in Peel change, we will revisit the need to reinstate local mandatory masking policies.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you, your offices, and your municipal council counterparts, for your willingness to implement municipal by-laws to bolster provincial masking mandates throughout the pandemic. Your unwavering support has helped to protect the residents of your respective municipalities and Peel region as a whole.

If you have any questions, please contact louise.aubin@peelregion.ca.

Sincerely,



Lawrence C. Loh, MD, MPH, FCFP, FRCPC, FACPM (*he/his*)
Medical Officer of Health