

July 30, 2020

Dear Mayors Brown, Crombie and Thompson,

Thank you for all your support in our ongoing pandemic response to protect the health and safety of Peel residents. With your strong leadership, we have averted a worst-case scenario in Peel and have positioned our Region well for a successful restart and recovery. This includes, the recent passing of temporary by-laws mandating mask and face coverings in each of your municipalities.

As you know, transmission risks in food and beverage establishments, as well as fitness facilities remain a significant concern as we move into Stage 3. These establishments have been linked to COVID-19 exposures in Canada, the United States, and elsewhere in the world. In some instances, restrictions had to be re-imposed to prevent further transmission.

In addition, there continues to be confusion about mask use and non-compliance in the shared spaces in condominiums and apartment buildings.

Together, we recently advocated to the Province for restrictions in food and beverage establishments, as well as fitness facilities, to be added to their emergency order for Peel and other large urban areas to protect patrons and workers in these settings.

Since the Province has not moved forward with increased restrictions, I encourage you to consider supporting by-laws to help reduce the risks that come from close contacts in these highly social settings. These recommendations align with Toronto's, so residents, businesses and visitors have consistency across municipal borders.

For food and beverage settings

1. Patrons should always stay seated, other than to enter or exit, travel to or from the washroom, or pay.
2. Occupancy limits should be reduced to a maximum number where physical distancing can be easily maintained and no more than 100 people.
3. No more than 10 people can sit together at the same table.
4. Closing time and last call should come earlier (e.g., last call at midnight).
5. Employees should always use face coverings, worn appropriately

For fitness facilities and gymnasiums

1. Occupancy limits should be reduced to a maximum number where physical distancing can be easily maintained and no more than 50 people inside (total, including staff).
2. Facilities should introduce a reservation system for users that manages access to the spaces and enforces occupancy limits.
3. Facilities should strictly monitor and enforce 2 metre distancing between participants in all group classes, or not offer classes at all.
4. All equipment provided to users of the facility must be cleaned and disinfected between each use.
5. Employees and patrons should comply with local by-laws for use of face coverings, including any applicable exemptions.

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For both food and beverage, and fitness establishments

1. Employers should introduce mandatory screening for all employees prior to their shifts.
2. Employers must also:
 - a. Maintain a client log for all guests or patrons and gather contact information, check in/out times and in the case of food and beverage establishments, also note table number;
 - b. Store the log for 30 days; and
 - c. Make the log available to Public Health, when requested, for the purpose of contact tracing.

For condominiums and apartment buildings

I recommend the following amendments to your municipal face covering by-laws:

1. Face coverings should be worn appropriately at all times in all communal spaces in condominiums and apartment buildings, including (but not limited to) entrances, lobbies, party rooms, laundries, hallways, staircases and elevators.
2. Residents, visitors and employees should comply with local by-laws for use of face coverings, including any applicable exemptions.
3. No more than two people should be in an elevator at any time, except family parties with children, attendant care aides where individuals cannot travel in the elevators alone or first responders attending an emergency call. When two people are in the elevator together, they should stand spaced apart, each in opposite corners of the elevator.

It is my recommendation that these be explored by all municipalities for inclusion in potential by-laws that could supplement the face covering by-laws already in force.

This letter is intended to provide guidance for matters which I consider should be addressed, and not necessarily technical language for inclusion in the recommended by-laws.

In preparing by-laws for enactment in accordance with this guidance, I would urge that consideration be given to consistency between enactments of neighbouring municipalities both within and in the vicinity of Peel. I believe there is a public health benefit in achieving consistency in the measures for residents, workers and businesses, as they move freely across municipal borders.

With my most sincere regards,



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