

APPENDIX 1

September 8, 2020

Dear Mayors Brown, Crombie and Thompson,

Thank you for 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 reopening and recovery. This includes the passing of temporary by-laws mandating mask use/face coverings and restricting capacity in restaurants and drinking establishments.

Due to the continued presence of the virus in our community, the progression of reopening and the resurgence of cases in Peel over the past week, my public health advice is that local municipal by-laws mandating the use of face coverings and imposing capacity restrictions on restaurants and drinking establishments continue in force until the end of 2020. We continue to closely monitor the virus in our community and will provide regular updates to municipalities to help inform Council decisions regarding the continuation and/or repeal of these temporary by-laws.

Similar by-laws are in place in other Ontario jurisdictions and a number of these jurisdictions are keeping these practices in place beyond October 1st (e.g. York, Ottawa). Alignment with neighbouring jurisdictions enables consistency for residents, businesses and visitors across municipal borders.

As the virus continues to circulate in our community, continued vigilance is critical to minimizing community spread. As Peel reopens, in accordance with the Provincial Framework, including the reopening of schools in September, some public health measures, such as physical distancing, are more challenging. Continuing public health measures, such as the use of non-medical masks/face coverings and capacity limits in indoor spaces where mask use is limited (i.e. restaurants and drinking establishments) is increasingly important in reducing the spread of COVID-19, minimizing the resurgence of cases, and mitigating a second wave.

Non-medical masks/face coverings that cover the mouth, nose, and chin without gapping remain an effective public health measure in controlling COVID-19 at its source by preventing the spread of respiratory droplets that may contain COVID-19 from the wearer to others. This is especially important in situations where physical distancing is difficult.

Due to limited mask use in restaurants and bars, these establishments remain a significant concern as our community continues to reopen. Measures to support these establishments in maintaining physical distancing, such as occupancy limits, can help to further reduce COVID-19 transmission.

It is my recommendation that local by-laws mandating the use of face coverings and imposing capacity restrictions in restaurants and drinking establishment be extended by all local municipalities in Peel until the end of 2020.

Health Services

Office of the
Medical Officer
of Health

PO Box 667
RPO Streetsville
Mississauga, ON
L5M 2C2
tel: 905-799-7700

peelregion.ca

Your continued leadership and the continued practice of the four core behaviours by Peel residents supports safer reopening of our communities.

With my most sincere regards,



Monica Hau, MD MSc CCFP FRCPC (on behalf of Dr. Lawrence Loh, MOH)
Associate Medical Officer of Health
Public Health, Health Services
Region of Peel

**Health
Services**

Office of the
Medical Officer
of Health

PO Box 667
RPO Streetsville
Mississauga, ON
L5M 2C2
tel: 905-799-7700

peelregion.ca