



July 25, 2020

Posse No.: 354960060

To: City Council

Copy: Executive Leadership Team
Denis Beaudry, Acting City Clerk
Michael Gunther, Acting City Solicitor
David Aitken, Chair, COVID-19 Task Team

From: Kim Armstrong, Acting Interim City Manager

Subject: **Proposed Temporary Mandatory Face Covering Bylaw**

Further to discussion at the July 23, 2020, Emergency Advisory Committee meeting, Administration will be proposing a bylaw that will require individuals to wear a face covering in all indoor, publicly accessible spaces. The draft bylaw, and an accompanying report, will be made available to Council and the public on Monday, July 27, in advance of the July 29, 2020, City Council meeting.

The proposed bylaw will apply to retail stores, entertainment venues, recreation centres, restaurants, and transit stations. It will also apply to transit vehicles and vehicles for hire. Business owners and operators will not be responsible for enforcement and can choose whether to deny service to those who do not comply with the bylaw. Business owners may also sell or provide masks to customers if they choose.

The proposed bylaw will not apply to persons:

- under age 2;
- who are unable to place, use, or remove a face covering without assistance;
- with mental or physical concerns or limitations, or any other protected ground under the *Alberta Human Rights Act*, that prevents them from wearing a face covering;
- eating or drinking while seated in designated spaces or as part of a religious ceremony;
- engaging in water activities or physical exercise;



- providing assistance or care to someone with a disability who would be hindered if the caregiver is wearing a face covering; or
- engaging in services that require removal of the face covering (e.g. having a passport photo taken or dental work).

The proposed bylaw will not apply to the following places:

- schools;
- health care facilities and hospitals;
- child care facilities; and
- employee-only spaces where barriers have been installed between the employee and patrons. When employees leave these areas, they will be required to wear face coverings.

The proposed fine is \$100, and it will take effect August 1, 2020. The bylaw will be repealed December 31, 2020, unless extended by Council.

A [summary](#) of the proposed bylaw is attached and is Edmonton-specific. However, for comparison and background information, also attached are copies of the current [Toronto](#) and [Calgary](#) bylaws.

In addition to the public release of the report and proposed bylaw, this memo and its attachments will be posted publicly via our meeting minutes, and will also be placed prominently on our Council and Committee Meetings webpage (edmonton.ca/meetings).