



BRIEFING NOTE

COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman July 21, 2020

Mask By-law updates

Now that the face covering by-law has been in place a full week, I want to provide a brief update on wearing masks in Waterloo Region.

We're very pleased with the amount of support we've received for making mask-wearing mandatory. I've seen a drastic increase in the amount of people wearing face coverings in enclosed spaces and on transit.

For residents in need of a free mask, we know most local social service agencies are providing them to clients at no cost. Free fabric masks are also available from:

- Grand River Transit;
- Cambridge Memorial Hospital
- Emergency shelters;
- Welcome spaces at Regional buildings;

Our local United Way is collecting donations and organizing the distribution of free masks to citizens who can't afford one. If you can donate masks, please contact the United Way.

Please remember to show kindness to those unable to wear a face covering. Children under five and people with certain medical conditions or disabilities are exempt from the Face Covering By-law. If you see someone without a mask, please assume they have a good reason for not wearing one.

Finally, I want to stress that wearing a face covering is **just one** of the public health measures we need to follow. Physical distancing is still required in order to stay safe. Wearing a mask doesn't mean you can get closer to people outside your social circle. Always stay 2 metres or six feet apart, wash your hands thoroughly and often, and stay home and get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have had contact with someone with COVID-19.

If you still have questions about wearing face coverings [visit our website](#) where we're adding new questions and answers every day.

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