



BRIEFING NOTE

COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman July 7, 2020

Face Covering By-law

Regional Council passed by-laws last night that require Region of Waterloo residents to wear a mask on public transit and enclosed public places.

These by-laws make face coverings mandatory in enclosed spaces such as:

- trains and buses;
- shopping malls and retail shops;
- restaurants;
- museums;
- places of worship;
- recreational facilities and more.

The by-laws do NOT include children under five nor those who're unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability. There will be no requirement for people to prove their disability.

Making masks mandatory is yet another tool to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. And is not a replacement for all the other health measures we've been recommending. You still need to practice physical distancing around anyone outside your social circle, continue frequent handwashing, and staying at home and getting tested if you develop symptoms.

Business owners and operators are asked to post clearly visible signs at all entrances. Signage will be available, starting July 13, at city halls and township offices, local chambers of commerce or you can print them off the Region's website.

We'll continue to take an education-first approach to these by-laws and ask people to comply in the spirit of protecting each other.



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We know getting used to mask by-laws might be challenging for some and we thank you for your patience as we move through it together.

We are hopeful this will help us move into Stage 3 of pandemic recovery.

Mask by-laws will be removed on September 30, 2020 unless extended by Council.