

Mask Meeting

Angela Johnston [REDACTED]

Thu 2020-07-09 11:02 AM

To: clerks@haltonhills.ca <clerks@haltonhills.ca>

I am writing to you today as a very concerned citizen of the town of Halton Hills (Georgetown). I am asking Council to seriously consider the unbiased scientific evidence and recommendations when deciding on this extremely important mandatory mask issue. There is a reason why so many health care professionals have been speaking out against mandatory masks, though they are not given a voice in the mainstream. Evidence from independent sources is quite clear that community masking, especially at this point in the pandemic, and with what we now know about the virus, is 1) unnecessary, 2) ineffective, 3) harmful to the wearer) and 4) more likely to increase the spread of an infection to the greater community. I will provide study links at the end.

There is no reliable scientific evidence to suggest that wearing masks will prevent the spread of infection in the general population. The WHO statement on masks states that the widespread use of masks by healthy people in the community setting is not supported by high quality or direct scientific evidence. There have been extensive randomized controlled trial (RCT) studies (the only methodology with the power to truly prove causation), and meta-analysis reviews of RCT studies, which all show that masks and respirators do not work to prevent respiratory illnesses believed to be transmitted by droplets and aerosol particles.

There are, however, multiple documented risks and harms associated with mask wearing, including but not limited to the fact that:

- self-contamination and cross-contamination can occur by touching and reusing contaminated masks. Exhaled viruses and bacteria become concentrated and proliferate in these moist mask environments
- potential breathing difficulties due to hypoxia (decreased oxygenation) and hypercapnia (elevated carbon dioxide) directly contribute to a depressed immune system and further risk of infection with any number of environmental pathogens, not to mention increased risk of heart attacks and the like
- masks create a false sense of security, leading to potentially less adherence to other preventive measures such as hand hygiene and physical distancing

If people are wearing masks for extended periods of time, a bacterial biofilm will build up on the outside layer of the mask. Colin Furness, a UofT epidemiologist and professor, says that "If Canadians are wearing a cloth mask all day, you will see a noticeable spike in bacterial lung infections in a month or so".

When health care professionals wear masks, they are rigorously trained on how to wear them (there is way more to it than most people realize, and almost everyone in the community is doing it **WRONG**, to the point where is not only ineffective, but doing more harm than good). Hospitals, and in particular surgical rooms, are very tightly controlled environments, where the temperature, humidity and oxygen levels are strictly maintained. Those wearing proper N95 respirators, the only masks that have the potential to filter **SOME** of these tiny virus particles, must be properly fit-tested for every single wearer.

When we consider that this virus appears to be no more virulent or deadly than the seasonal flu, according to the CDC's own statistics, I can't help but wonder why we haven't been forced to wear masks every single winter (or maybe that is coming with how terrified people have become of "germs" in the last few months). Especially considering that many flu sufferers dose themselves up on OTC meds and head out to work or the grocery store all the time, becoming what we now call "asymptomatic spreaders"!

Also, if you are going to mandate that everyone wear masks, then you also must consider mandating healthy eating and lifestyles. People need to start taking some personal responsibility for their health, instead of expecting others to jeopardize their own health by wearing a mask, and not taking any steps to support their own immune systems.

And how long do we expect people to wear masks? Will this mandate be an indefinite part of our “new normal”? Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of the person, and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.” The local rate of community transmission in our Region simply does not warrant a publicly mandated, Region-wide order. Policy cannot be enacted in order to “prevent confusion” from other Regions, or as a public relations strategy to mitigate fear.

The Canadian Constitution Foundation has concerns about the constitutionality of mandatory mask orders that are too broad and violate Charter guaranteed rights to liberty, stating that: “Mandatory mask orders must provide a medical exemption for people who cannot wear a mask because of physical or mental disability. The Centre for Disease Control states that anyone who has trouble breathing while wearing a mask should not wear one. Survivors of physical and sexual trauma are reporting tremendous panic with the use of masks, and racial overtones to slavery cannot be ignored. Any potential order must make it clear that citizens are not required to share the reason for their exemption with anyone else, and no business can compel them to do so. Those individuals who cannot wear a mask must be protected from the censure of social opinion.”

Placing the onus on businesses to enforce any potential order with the threat of a massive fine is discriminatory and will cause them to ignore stated exemptions, further violating an individual’s rights and freedoms.

Further, I would assert that children under the age of 19 should not be compelled to wear a mask in public. That assertion is based on research from the Hospital for Sick Children, which has tested over six thousand five hundred children for Covid since March. Based on their research, Sick Kids’ recommendation is that children under 19 years of age should not be compelled to wear masks.

I will close by asking whether there are detrimental effects on the quality and depth of social connection and cohesion in a society that is masked and distanced. The Ontario Civil Liberties Association asks whether imposed or socially coerced mask-use induces or contributes to a psychological state of fear and stress in the population. Psychological stress is proven to be a factor that can measurably depress the immune system and further induce disease. It is a fundamental human right to freedom of choice to act in the world, including the personal freedom to evaluate risk. When State power is applied in the absence of valid scientific basis, it constitutes arbitrarily applied and coercive power.

Mask policies are creating significant public strife. Divisiveness and discrimination are rampant, and are affecting the well being of our community. Our community has the opportunity to designate masks as Recommended, as opposed to Required.

“It is clear that masks serve symbolic roles. They are talismans that increase a perceived but unvalidated sense of safety. We are all subject to fear and anxiety, especially during times of crisis. One might argue that fear and anxiety are better countered with data and education than with a marginally beneficial mask.” (Dr. Anthony Fauci)

This video by Tammy Herrema Clark (an OSHA expert on PPE) explains why there is so much conflicting “science” and recommendations with respect to mask wearing. https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=TgDm_maAgIM&fbclid=IwAR231siGZW0n8E-The following is KxtIttJKaIBba0JJnIdac1TPJ0IX2kxFMQklyKzOLINE&app=desktop

The following is a list of all the independent, peer-reviewed science that I have compiled related to mask-wearing: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JZKea_2QpEzNaPfVmGZ1RjVcOMb1CeGm6JZnvV9U-w8/edit?usp=sharing

Thank you for your serious consideration of this very important matter. I trust that you will make your decision based on science, health, and logic, and not on emotion and politics.

Sincerely,
Angela Johnston

Support for Halton Hills Mask By-law

Betty Cunningham [REDACTED] >

Thu 2020-07-09 8:38 AM

To: clerks@haltonhills.ca <clerks@haltonhills.ca>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council:

Our family is in total and full support of the Town's proposed Mask by-law and wish to thank Council, with particular recognition to Councillors Johnson and Fogal for putting the associated motion forward. We look forward to the passing and implementation of the associated by-law. Congratulations too on being the first of the four local municipalities to move forward in this matter.

Our family has done our part throughout this pandemic because it is the right thing to do and thankfully, together with other likeminded people, the results are starting to show; the numbers in Halton Hills and the Region overall are starting to go down. However, in watching efforts slide somewhat locally and especially what is happening to our neighbours to the south, it is abundantly clear that we cannot afford to become complacent.

While we ourselves followed all recommended safety measures for the good of ourselves and others, it was very discouraging to watch and listen to others who chose to do otherwise – a scary and helpless feeling indeed.

This action on the Town's part indicates strong leadership in this regard and provides a level of comfort to residents that we're truly in this together and that we will get through it, together.

Thanks from all of us (including two front line workers in our immediate family). We owe so much to them and we need to – and can do - this for the betterment of us all.

Sincerely,

Betty and Bill Cunningham

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: July 8, 2020 6:17 PM
To: Service HH <serviceHH@haltonhills.ca>
Subject: Mandatory face masks

Shame on all of you! Is there no freedom left in Halton Hills?
Is there no room for individuality?
You are behaving like a Fascist Government.
Infection numbers are down, WITHOUT face masks!
This is nothing but a public relations stunt after the need has passed in order to look proactive.
The need for this was 4 months ago, not now.
Again, shame on you all for bringing this affront to civil liberties to Halton Hills!
Not one of any of the incumbents will ever get my vote ever again.

Dave Loewen

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [1](#)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Face Mask By-law

Douglas Wells <[REDACTED]>

Thu 2020-07-09 9:25 AM

To: clerks@haltonhills.ca <clerks@haltonhills.ca>

Good morning

I would like to commend Mayor Bonnette and Halton Hills Council for bringing the Face Mask by-law forward. Where the region and the Medical Officer of Health only suggested there use, Halton Hills is taking the initiative to protect their residents.

We do not want to take a step backward especially when a second wave is expected.

I and my family thank you for taking the initiative.

We support the face mask by-law.

Sincerely

Doug Wells



Mandatory masks

Louise Jarvie [REDACTED] >

Thu 2020-07-09 10:36 AM

To: clerks@haltonhills.ca <clerks@haltonhills.ca>

Hi there,

I'm writing to express my opinion on the mask wearing. I do not think we should have to wear a mask for many reasons but the main, simple reason is that it should be a personal choice.

Thank you

Louise

From: Lisa Bizzoni [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 11:20 PM
Subject: Masks should not be Mandatory!
To: <clerks@haltonhills.ca>

I am writing to you today to ask that you do not make masks mandatory in the Halton Region. Masks do not do anything to protect you from becoming infected and may also have detrimental effects of your health.

Masks are proven to decrease health and immunity in the human body straight across the board. I believe that any government agency legislating, mandating or encouraging the public to do something that endangers their health places themselves in breach of office and opens themselves up legally to mass legal liability.

Here are a few of the research points I urge you to look at when making your decisions.

“Masks can spread all virus, but coronavirus specifically. Exhaled viruses will not be able to escape and may concentrate in the nasal passages. “ Perlman S et al. Spread of a neurotropic murine coronavirus into the CNS via the trigeminal and olfactory nerves. Virology 1989;170:556-560. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/2543129/>

A cluster randomised trial of cloth masks compared with medical masks in healthcare workers
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/>

Effectiveness of Surgical and Cotton Masks in Blocking SARS-CoV-2
<https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-1342>

Masks Fail to Filter Virus in Coughing Covid-19 Patients
<https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/85814>

Masking Does Not Prevent Viral Transmission
<http://ocla.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Rancourt-Masks-dont-work-review-science-re-COVID19-policy.pdf>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jebm.12381>

<https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00173017>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-32008-x.pdf>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26179900/>

<https://drkelley.info/2020/05/06/yesterdays-scientific-dogma-is-todays-discarded-fable/?fbclid=IwAR0NV14jUhhGt-40k3wBlcwNQUIkkLi6hRd3vu0clVCz6STXpdeU6k3SOlg>

If masks were to be mandated, it should have been done in March not now when Halton region has 3 active cases and this does not warrant mandating masks that are detrimental to your health.

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From: Wastewise <[REDACTED]>

Date: July 8, 2020 at 9:34:20 PM EDT

To: <clerks@haltonhills.ca>

Subject: Mask Bylaw submission

Hello mayor and council,

Forgive us for contacting you directly but clerks@Haltonhills.ca as listed in the July 9 agenda is not functioning.

We are writing to express our support of the mask bylaw but also to express our concern over medical exemptions.

We at Wastewise have been requiring masks since May 12, 2020. Our business has not suffered and if anything has been above average. More importantly we have staff and volunteers with medical conditions which would normally classify as mask-exempt including asthma, panic attacks, and similar respiratory and anxiety related issues. None have had an issue with masks and there is no sound medical reason not to wear a mask with these conditions.

However what we do have is customers, staff, and volunteers, as well as their family members with underlying conditions and/or are in higher-risk age groups, where the spread of COVID-19 would put them at risk of serious illness and even worse death. Their health and lives are more important than comfort, anxiety, or the illusion of trouble breathing with a mask. Our town must put lives first as we will be at Wastewise where we will have zero medical exemptions to masks, regardless of the bylaw.

In the words of our HR company, Peninsula, masks are an accommodation for those at risk of COVID-19 and they trump all other accommodations that would result in mask exemptions. In fact there are other accommodations other than mask exemptions such as delivery, contactless pickup, etc. that would be more appropriate than mask exemptions.

People who feel entitled to mask exemptions, often will not provide proof leading to anyone claiming exempt status and more so when businesses like Wastewise deny exemptions the customers who feel entitled tend to become aggravated and aggressive which at this stage is happening daily. Our staff and volunteers are at risk. This mask bylaw will help keep them safe, but not allowing medical exemptions would be safer.

Thank you for your considerations,
The Wastewise Board of Directors.

Wastewise
Registered Environmental Charity & Thrift Store

