



MAYOR'S REPORT  
JULY 27, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Good evening and welcome to our virtual council meeting.

I am here in the council chambers with our CAO Scott Luey, Clerk Amber LaPointe, Deputy Clerk Charlotte Madden, staff from our Community and Economic Development Department and By-law Department and a member of Wee Stream who are live streaming this meeting for us.

I would like to welcome our eight city councillors and various city directors who are each attending from home.

Niagara Region has now entered Stage 3 of the COVID-19 recovery process.

In addition to further businesses now being allowed to operate, the city was able to reopen all of our playgrounds.

We continue to emphasize social distancing, hand washing, face coverings where social distancing can't be maintained or where required by the Region's face mask by-law.

We ask for your patience while we all work together for a safe and gradual return of services.

**Niagara Region Mandatory Mask By-law**

On July 23, 2020, as part of their efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, Niagara Regional Council approved a by-law making it mandatory to wear a face covering or non-medical mask in enclosed public places.

The by-law comes into effect at 12:01 a.m. on July 31, 2020 and will remain in effect until Oct. 1, 2020 unless extended by Regional Council.

The by-law applies to the following enclosed indoor places:

- Retail stores where goods and services are sold to customers
- Businesses that primarily sell food including restaurants
- Supermarkets, grocery stores, bakeries and convenience stores
- Churches, mosques, temples, synagogues and other places of worship, except during a religious rite or ceremony that is incompatible with the face being covered
- Shopping malls or similar structures which contain multiple places of business
- Lobby areas of commercial buildings
- Common areas of hotels and motels and other short term accommodations, such as lobbies, elevators, meeting rooms or other common use facilities but does not include the common areas of residential apartment buildings or condominiums
- Laundromats
- Concert venues, theatres and cinemas
- Fitness centres, gyms, other recreational and sports facilities and clubhouses
- Arcades and other amusement facilities
- Premises utilized as an open house, presentation centres or other facility for real estate purposes
- Museums, galleries, historic sites and similar attractions
- Businesses providing personal care services
- Banquet halls, convention centres, arenas, stadiums and other event spaces
- Public transit operated by Niagara Region and local area municipalities
- Municipal buildings

When it comes to children, every child that is five years old or older will be required to wear a mask.

Under the by-law, all businesses operating in Niagara must have a policy regarding the wearing of face coverings that prevent persons from entering without a mask.

Additionally, businesses must ensure that staff receive training in the requirements of the policy and provide hand sanitizer at all public entrances.

There are some exemptions. As some individuals may be unable to wear a mask, Niagara Region is asking residents to be supportive to others in our community who may be exempt and remind residents that every person's situation is different.

For those who are unable to wear a mask, the by-law does not require those individuals to disclose the reason for the exemption.

The by-law also makes exemptions for indoor locations that would already have their own policies, or would be subject to other provincial legislation or guidelines:

- Day cares, schools, post secondary institutions and other facilities used solely for educational purposes
- Hospitals, independent health facilities and offices of regulated health professionals
- Buildings and services owned or operated by the Province of Ontario or the Federal Government of Canada
- An indoor area of a building that is accessible only to employees
- Portions of buildings that are being used for the purpose of providing day camps for children or for the training of amateur or professional athletes

If residents or businesses have any questions or concerns regarding this by-law, more information is available by visiting [niagararegion.ca/covid19](https://niagararegion.ca/covid19).

## **Closing**

In closing, we must remain vigilant in fighting this virus.

Our number one priority is the health and safety of our citizens as we continue the safe and gradual reopening of services and business activities. Please stay safe.