

Fw: Mandatory Masks - Covid-19

From: Rob [REDACTED]
Reply-To: Rob [REDACTED]
To: joseph.hickey@ocla.ca <joseph.hickey@ocla.ca>
Subject: Fw: Mandatory Masks - Covid-19
Date: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 5:41 AM
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----- Original Message -----

On Jul. 6, 2020, 4:01 p.m., Pepi McTavish <Pepi.McTavish@durham.ca> wrote:

Hello Mr. Graham,

Thank you for your email. Requiring non-medical masks and facial coverings in commercial establishments is one additional public health measure (along with physical distancing, hand and cough hygiene, and staying home when sick) that can prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our community. This is an evolving body of evidence as the studies on COVID-19 continue. There is evidence, primarily based on ecological studies and modelling, suggesting that COVID-19 transmission rates can be reduced with a high level of population compliance of non-medical mask use. Some of the research used to inform the decision includes:

Public Health Ontario. (2020). COVID-19 - What We Know So Far About... Wearing Masks in Public.
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/covid-wwksf/what-we-know-public-masks-apr-7-2020.pdf?la=en>

Chu et al. (2020). Physical distancing, face masks, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31142-9/fulltext?dgcid=hubspot_email_newsletter_tlcoronavirus20&utm_campaign=tlcoronavirus20&utm_medium=email&hsmi=88842267&hsenc=p2ANqtz-seel2ZCMkh15O35f3YL2B4B-29McB0BmnUR-NrxVIYZsikK0cJkNNLqQzgotSJfEiAmE-7LY41PaNomXTGZltDMNT5_g&utm_content=88842267&utm_source=hs_email](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31142-9/fulltext?dgcid=hubspot_email_newsletter_tlcoronavirus20&utm_campaign=tlcoronavirus20&utm_medium=email&hsmi=88842267&hsenc=p2ANqtz-seel2ZCMkh15O35f3YL2B4B-29McB0BmnUR-NrxVIYZsikK0cJkNNLqQzgotSJfEiAmE-7LY41PaNomXTGZltDMNT5_g&utm_content=88842267&utm_source=hs_email)

Fisman et al. (2020). Brief research report: Bidirectional impact of imperfect mask use on reproduction number of COVID-19: A next generation matrix approach. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468042720300191>

Eikenberry et al. (2020). To mask or not to mask: Modeling the potential for face mask use by the general public to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468042720300117>

Liang et al. (2020). Efficacy of face mask in preventing respiratory virus transmission: a systematic review and meta-analysis. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1477893920302301>

Pedersen and Meneghini (2020). Data-driven estimation of change points reveal correlation between face mask use and accelerated curtailment of the COVID-19 epidemic in Italy. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.06.29.20141523v1>

Thank you,
Pepi

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent: July 6, 2020 1:55 PM

To: chair <chair@durham.ca>
Subject: Mandatory Masks - Covid-19

Good Afternoon Chairman Henry.

I hope that I find you and your family well. As you have mandated non medical face masks or coverings as of July 10th when occupying indoor public spaces within Durham Region, and have been quoted by DurhamRegion.com as stating "There is growing public health evidence that widespread use of non-medical masks or face coverings - when used with other public health recommendations - is effective in the fight against COVID-19. This includes physical distancing in public spaces, frequently washing your hands, and staying home when you are sick", I am contacting you to make a request of your office to please provide me with the said evidence of the benefit of face coverings to protect from Covid-19 infection. I have read many medical studies and have not been able to find this consensus. I thank you in advance for providing the information / peer reviewed medical studies stating this fact. All the best and stay safe.

Regards,

Robert Graham.

[REDACTED]