

## Re: Mandatory face coverings

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Hello Mr. Moore,

Can you please tell me why there is a mandatory mask order still in effect in the KFL&A region, as well as why one was ever required in the first place? I understand the concern of the nail salon outbreaks but that was contained very well. Kudos to KFL&A Public Health for that. Currently we have not had a new case in a week but no, this does not correlate directly to mask wearing. We were doing very well before the nail salon outbreaks, with zero cases for almost three weeks straight in June with no mandatory mask order in effect. The KFL&A region currently sits at a total population infection rate of ~0.05% and a death rate of 0%. [1] That's much lower than an average flu season, which we have never worn masks for. The data in Kingston and Ontario, and even Canada-wide does not support the need for a mandatory mask order. [2]

Can you please also point me to the science on mask wearing stopping virus transmission, especially cloth and surgical masks? I have kept a close eye on the pandemic ever since it started. I have read numerous research articles all stating that masks are not effective and even if they are, they're only roughly 10-20% effective at best. Do you disagree with your highly esteemed medical colleague, Dr. Gerald Evans, the local Medical Director of Infection Control at Kingston Health Sciences Centre who admitted that "the science shows that wearing a cloth face mask does little to stop transmitting the virus in close proximity." and called it "a political tool"? [3]

A major concern I have with this order is the division that it has created in the community. Some local businesses are still denying exemptions to the order. People are getting mask shamed. The messaging from KFL&A Public Health hasn't been clear and the order is extraordinarily vague. I went through a local drive-thru to pick up some supper this evening and on the window, there was a KFL&A poster that clearly stated that masks MUST be worn if you enter the establishment. There was nothing on the poster regarding exemptions. On the website it now clearly states that businesses are not to turn away customers due to exemptions [4] but why is there no reference to this on signs at businesses?

In conclusion, in my opinion and with the supporting data, there was never a need for a mandatory mask order. I would like to get your opinion on this though.

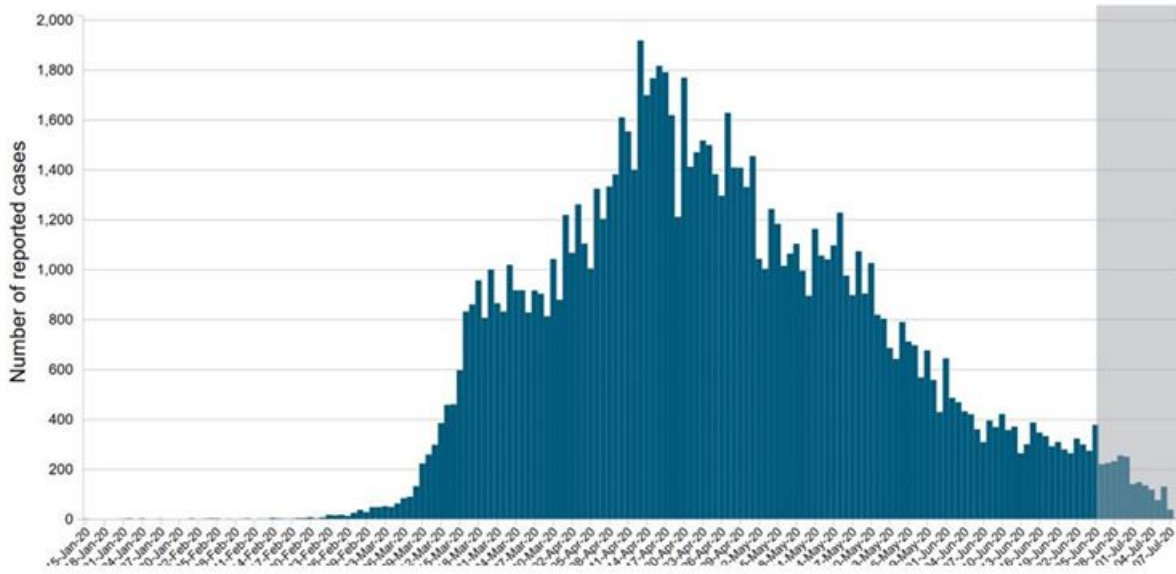
Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Ron Brodeur

1. <https://www.kflaph.ca/en/healthy-living/status-of-cases-in-kfla.aspx>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/FearlessOntario.ca/posts/164763695257728>
3. <https://www.thewhig.com/news/local-news/new-evidence-most-common-place-to-contract-covid-19-is-at-home>
4. <https://www.kflaph.ca/en/healthy-living/face-covering-frequently-asked-questions-faq.aspx>

## Canada Covid-19 Infected Cases by Date of Illness Onset

- as of July 9, 2020



## Ontario Percentage of Tested Positive Cases (purple line)

- March 29 to July 8, 2020

