



July 10, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMMENDED FROM YORK REGION RELEASE JULY 9, 2020

FACE MASK OR COVERING MANDATORY IN YORK REGION, INCLUDING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, JULY 17

Anyone visiting enclosed public spaces in Whitchurch-Stouffville must use a face mask or covering to reduce the spread of COVID-19

NEWMARKET, ON – York Regional Council yesterday endorsed a recommendation from York Region Medical Officer of Health Dr. Karim Kurji to issue an instruction requiring operators of enclosed public spaces in York Region to have a policy in place that prohibits persons from entering premises of the establishment if the person is not wearing a face mask or covering.

The Regional Municipality of York has endorsed this instruction issued by Dr. Kurji under the authority of the provincial Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act as a measure to further reduce the spread of COVID-19 within our communities. This instruction is directed to commercial establishments in York Region.

“York Regional Council remains committed to the health and safety of our residents,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson. “Businesses open to the public have worked diligently to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Face masks or coverings will play a key role for the continued successful re-opening of the economy and to safeguard our residents and visitors.”

Effective Friday, July 17 at 12:01 a.m., business owners and operators in York Region must have a policy in place to prohibit people from entering if they are not wearing a face mask or covering and must place approved [York Region signage](#) on the premises.

Outdoor settings and indoor spaces not open to the public are excluded. Additionally, a face mask or covering is not required at home with immediate family members, while eating on a restaurant patio or in the workplace where other standards apply, such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

“There is growing public health evidence that widespread use of face masks or coverings when used with other public health recommendations is effective in the fight against COVID-19,” said Dr. Kurji. “This includes physical distancing in public spaces, frequently washing your hands and staying home when you are sick. We will get through this, but only if everyone does their part to protect the health and safety of everyone in our communities.”

In both indoor and outdoor settings, face masks or coverings do not represent a substitute for physical distancing.

This instruction is to be applied in good faith and will be used primarily as an opportunity to educate people on the use of face masks or coverings, combined with other on-going recommended public health practices.

The instruction will remain in place until Monday, November 30, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

Learn more about what you need to know as a community member and as a business owner or operator at york.ca/mandatorymasks which includes additional information, resources and signage.

For more information on York Region’s response to COVID-19, visit york.ca/covid19

MORE INFORMATION:

This instruction applies to the following establishments:

- Premises or any portion thereof which are used as a place of business for the sale or offering for sale of goods or services, and includes a mall or similar structure which contains multiple places of business
- Churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, or other places of worship
- Community centres including indoor recreational facilities
- Libraries, art galleries, museums, aquariums, zoos and other similar facilities
- Community service agencies providing services to the public
- Banquet halls, convention centres, arenas, stadiums, and other event spaces
- Premises utilized as an open house, presentation centre, or other facility for real estate purposes
- Common areas of hotels, motels and other short-term rentals, such as lobbies, elevators, meeting rooms or other common use facilities
- Concert venues, theatres, cinemas, casinos, and other entertainment facilities

Exempt:

The Instruction does not apply to the following premises, even if they would fall under the definition of an establishment:

- Schools
- Post-secondary institutions
- Child care facilities
- Private and public transportation (YRT has its own by-law)
- Hospitals, independent health facilities
- Offices of regulated health professionals
- Apartment buildings and condominiums, including their common areas
- An area that is not enclosed or indoors (e.g. restaurant patio)

Wearing a face mask or covering when in public or other settings is not a replacement for following proven measures such as handwashing and physical distancing or at least 2-metres.

Non-Medical Masks:

Non-medical masks may include:

- Those that are made from cloth (for example cotton)
- Those that have pockets to insert filters
- Those that are used to cover other masks or respirators to prolong their use

Remember:

- Wearing a non-medical mask is NOT a replacement for physical distancing, hand washing, and monitoring your health.
- Wearing a mask adds an extra layer of protection: for others in case you have COVID-19 and for you in case others have COVID-19. Singing, shouting, talking and breathing all create micro-droplets. If you have COVID-19 you may not know it, but your micro-droplets would be full of virus.
- Wearing a non-medical mask is something you do to protect others in case you have COVID-19 but don't know it. It may also help protect you from others who have COVID-19.

For more information about non-medical masks, visit Health Canada's website [About non-medical masks and face coverings](#).

The Regional Municipality of York consists of nine local cities and towns and provides a variety of programs and services to 1.2 million residents and 54,000 businesses with 650,000 employees. More information about the Region's key service areas is available at york.ca/regional services.

Media Contact: Glenn Jackson | Corporate Communications

Telephone: 905-640-1910 or 1-855-642 8697 Ext. 2451

Email: glenn.jackson@townofws.ca