

 COBOURG	THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG	
	STAFF REPORT	
TO:	Mayor and Council	
FROM: TITLE:	Laurie Wills Director of Public Works	
DATE OF MEETING:	October 5, 2020	
TITLE / SUBJECT:	Mandatory Face Coverings on Cobourg Transit	
REPORT DATE:	September 30, 2020	File #:

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Town of Cobourg Council endorse the mandating of face coverings on public transit.

4.0 ORIGIN

- Local Health Unit Requirement for Mask Use in Commercial Establishments; and,
- Council resolution July 27, 2020:

WHEREAS at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on July 20, 2020 Council considered a memo from the Director of Public Works, regarding masks and face coverings being strongly recommended on Town of Cobourg Transit.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council initiate masks and face coverings being strongly recommended on Town of Cobourg Transit.

5.0 BACKGROUND

On July 7, 2020 the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRHU) issued a media release indicating that masks would be required to be worn in all commercial establishments effective July 13, 2020 and shall remain in effect while the province is under Emergency Order or until such time that the local Medical Officer of Health (MOH) lifts the requirement. A template was provided for business owners to prepare a policy for their establishments. The Town issued a Corporate policy to this affect.

6.0 ANALYSIS

On September 23, 2020 a positive COVID-19 case was reported at a local residential facility and it became known that residents of the facility were still utilizing public transportation. Given the rapid increase in positive cases across Ontario and upon confirmation that there was in fact a positive case in Cobourg, Staff escalated the public safety concern and immediately mandated face coverings on public transit commencing September 24, 2020.

The corporate policy has subsequently been revised as attached and a copy shall be present on each transit vehicle.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/BUDGET IMPACT

None

8.0 CONCLUSION

THAT the Town of Cobourg Council endorse the mandating of face coverings on public transit.

12.0 AUTHORIZATION/SIGNATURES

Approved By:

Ian Davey, Treasurer/Director of Corporate Services

Department:

Finance



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG

PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION
740 DIVISION STREET
BLDG #7, NORTHAM INDUSTRIAL PARK
COBOURG, ON, K9A 0H6

Engineering Department
Telephone: (905) 372-4555
Toll Free: 1-888-972-4301
Fax: (905) 372-0009

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POLICY – Face Coverings Mandatory for Cobourg Transit

This policy has been written to continue to safeguard the community against COVID-19 and ensure alignment with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) Ontario Regulation 263/20 s.4(2).

Effective July 13, 2020, all commercial establishments currently operating during Stage 2 have been instructed by the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR) local Medical Officer of Health that non-medical masks or face coverings must be worn inside the premises at all times.

Cobourg Transit recognizes our role in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Effective September 24, 2020:

Cobourg Transit requires anyone entering our vehicles to wear a non-medical mask or face covering.

The non-medical mask or face covering must be worn while inside the vehicles, unless it is reasonably required to temporarily remove the face covering for services provided by Cobourg Transit.

All persons will be notified of this requirement through signage posted in the vehicles, transit shelters, the Town of Cobourg website, social media, and automated phone calls to current WHEELS members.

This policy will be enacted and enforced in 'good faith' by Century Transportation drivers and Town of Cobourg staff and is an opportunity to educate passengers and customers about the use of non-medical masks or face coverings while indoors and on transit as a community safety measure.

Exceptions

Some people may not be able to tolerate wearing a mask. Town of Cobourg staff and Century Transportation drivers will exempt a person from wearing a non-medical mask or face covering on the premises or in the vehicles if the person is:

- the person is a child under the age of two years; or a child under the age of five years chronologically or developmentally and cannot be persuaded to wear a face covering by their caregiver;
- the person has a medical condition rendering them unable to wear a non-medical mask or face covering safely;
- the person cannot apply or remove a non-medical mask or face covering without assistance;

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- the person cannot wear a non-medical mask or face covering or cannot cover their face in a way that would appropriately control the source of droplets for reasons of religion or other protections under the Ontario *Human Rights Code*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H. 19, as amended;

Role of Staff/Drivers

All staff/drivers will be trained on the new policy regarding face covering requirements.

All staff/drivers will be required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering while driving and working in the space that services the public unless they meet exemptions outlined above.

Staff/drivers will do their best to limit entry of any person not wearing a non-medical mask or face covering. Efforts may include:

- Giving a verbal reminder upon entry that the customer is required to wear a face covering.
- For customers in the premises seen removing their face covering for extended periods of time, giving a verbal reminder of the requirement to wear a face covering.
- If a customer refuses to put on a face covering and refuses to leave the premises or vehicles, staff/drivers are not required to engage further; there is no need to turn away or remove a customer to achieve the best effort standard.

This policy remains in effect until such time as, at a minimum, instructions for mandatory masks in commercial establishments or on public transit are modified or revoked by the Medical Officer of Health for HKPR or by the Town of Cobourg Council, respectively.

We appreciate your understanding along with your best efforts to encourage compliance.

On behalf of the Cobourg Transit,

Laurie Wills, Director Public Works
September 29, 2020

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