

Memorandum

Date: September 28, 2021

To: Members of Council

From: Laura Hall, Director of Corporate Services / Town Clerk

Subject: Amending the Expiration of the Mandatory Face Mask By-law 2020-47 in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

On July 7, 2020 following Dr. Lawrence Loh, the Medical Officer of Health for the Region of Peel, advising that a by-law mandating the use of non-medical masks improves the protection of Peel residents from the COVID-19 virus, Town Council enacted the COVID-19 Mandatory Face Mask By-law 2020-47 ("Mandatory Face Mask By-law")

The Mandatory Face Mask By-law requires individuals wear a face mask before entering and while inside public establishments and vehicles accessible to the public. Additionally, operators of businesses open to the public may not permit a person to enter or remain in their public establishment without wearing a face mask. Operators are required in the Mandatory Face Mask By-law to adopt a policy to implement this masking requirement and post signs at all entrances to their public establishment or within their vehicle.

According to Dr. Loh, as a result of the fast-spreading Delta variant, the Region is seeing an increase in the incidence of COVID-19 in the community. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic at all levels of government requires flexibility and fluidity in order to maintain the health and safety of all persons. The Mandatory Face Mask By-law currently includes a repeal date of September 30, 2021 with the option for Town Council to extend the date based on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health.

On September 1, 2021, Dr. Loh sent correspondence (attached as Schedule A to this memorandum) to the Mayors of the municipalities within Peel, advising:

"While there are no content changes required to the municipal by-laws, **it is recommended that the by-laws be extended through to March 31, 2022**, at which point in time we expect a higher proportion of Peel residents will be vaccinated against COVID-19, including a significant proportion of the currently ineligible 5-11 year-old population."

Based on Dr. Loh's recommendation, included within the Agenda Package is a proposed By-law to amend the repeal date within the Mandatory Face Mask By-law from September 30, 2021 to March 31, 2022. It is Council's discretion whether they wish to extend the repeal date.

Attachments

Schedule A – Letter to Regional Mayors from Dr. Loh dated September 1, 2021