

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Kolar, Loren](#)
Subject: Fw: Please do not mandate wearing a mask in Hmailton
Date: July 8, 2020 3:59:48 PM

From: Jackie Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:42 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Please do not mandate wearing a mask in Hmailton

Excellent presentation on masks. If you know the identity of this person, please do not disclose it. Here it is:

There is no reliable scientific evidence to suggest that wearing masks will prevent the spread of infection in the general population. There is not one single randomized control trial that demonstrates a scientific benefit to mandatory masking. The WHO statement on masks states that the widespread use of masks by healthy people in the community setting is not supported by high quality or direct scientific evidence.

Multiple randomized controlled trials did not find any measurable benefit for any viral respiratory disease. If masks were even moderately effective at reducing the risk of infection, then a benefit would have been statistically detected in one or more of the many reliable trials that have already been conducted.

There are, however, multiple documented risks and harms associated with mask wearing, including but not limited to the fact that:

- self-contamination can occur by touching and reusing contaminated masks
- potential breathing difficulties due to hypoxia (decreased oxygenation) and hypercapnia (elevated carbon dioxide) directly contribute to a depressed immune system and further risk of infection with any number of environmental pathogens
- masks create a false sense of security, leading to potentially less adherence to other preventive measures such as hand hygiene

The hope is that masks stop some respiratory droplets from getting out — and may stop them from contaminating surfaces and people.

However, Colin Furness, a UofT epidemiologist, and professor cautions that there are no comprehensive studies on the efficacy of cloth masks, saying they "aren't a guarantee of anything."

Asked whether masks stop viral particles from getting in, Dr. Isaac Bogoch, an infectious disease specialist and researcher at Toronto General Hospital, says that masks "might slightly

reduce one's risk [of exposure], but I can't look you in the eye and tell you if it does or by how much."

If people are wearing masks for extended periods of time, a bacterial biofilm can build up on the outside layer of the mask. Epidemiologist Furness says that "If Canadians are wearing a cloth mask all day, you'll see a noticeable spike in bacterial lung infections in a month or so". Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of the person, and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice." The local rate of community transmission in our Region simply does not warrant a publicly mandated, Region-wide order. A policy cannot be enacted in order to "prevent confusion" from other Regions, or as a public relations strategy to mitigate fear.

The Canadian Constitution Foundation has concerns about the constitutionality of mandatory mask orders that are too broad and violate Charter guaranteed rights to liberty, stating that: Mandatory mask orders must provide a medical exemption for people who cannot wear a mask because of physical or mental disability. The Centre for Disease Control states that anyone who has trouble breathing while wearing a mask should not wear one. Survivors of physical and sexual trauma are reporting tremendous panic with the use of masks, and racial overtones to slavery cannot be ignored. Any potential order must make it clear that citizens are not required to share the reason for their exemption with anyone else, and no business can compel them to do so. Those individuals who cannot wear a mask must be protected from the censure of social opinion.

Placing the onus on businesses to enforce any potential order with the threat of a massive fine is discriminatory and will cause them to ignore stated exemptions, further violating an individual's rights and freedoms.

Further, I would assert that children under the age of 19 should not be compelled to wear a mask in public. That assertion is based on research from the Hospital for Sick Children, which has tested over six thousand five hundred children for COVID since March. Based on their research, Sick Kids' recommendation is that children under 19 years of age should not be compelled to wear masks.

There is a very real and present risk of harm that is being created here. Citizens are jogging or biking in 35 degree temperatures while wearing a mask, creating grave danger. Driving while wearing a mask may contribute to a hypoxic state and altered level of consciousness, with the risk of causing car accidents. Public health MUST be educating the public more appropriately. I will close by asking whether there are detrimental effects on the quality and depth of social connection and cohesion in a society that is masked and distanced.

The Ontario Civil Liberties Association asks whether imposed or socially coerced mask-use induces or contributes to a psychological state of fear and stress in the population.

Psychological stress is proven to be a factor that can measurably depress the immune system and further induce disease.

It is a fundamental human right to freedom of choice to act in the world, including the personal freedom to evaluate risk. When State power is applied in the absence of valid scientific basis, it constitutes arbitrarily applied and coercive power.

Mask policies are creating significant public strife. Divisiveness and discrimination are rampant, and are affecting the well being of our community. Our community has the opportunity to designate masks as Recommended, as opposed to Required.

“It is clear that masks serve symbolic roles. They are talismans that increase a perceived but unvalidated sense of safety. We are all subject to fear and anxiety, especially during times of crisis. One might argue that fear and anxiety are better countered with data and education than with a marginally beneficial mask.”

Thank you.