

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Kolar, Loren](#)
Subject: Fw: Mandatory Mask Debate - PLEASE Consider Against This
Date: July 8, 2020 5:41:09 PM

From: Claudia Rey Gent [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:46 PM
Subject: Mandatory Mask Debate - PLEASE Consider Against This

I understand that City of Hamilton council members are considering passing a new bylaw requiring mandatory masks in all indoor public areas as per the advice of the Hamilton Health Unit.

If this had been presented and implemented back in March, and imposed during the build up and peak period in “the curve”, it would have been more acceptable and made practical sense. Now that the curve has flattened to the point of “flat line”, and case numbers are currently at two for the city and the county combined, it seems we are closing the barn door after the horse has already escaped.

Let’s ignore the actual, negligible statistics and assume the virus is as virulent and contagious as your health director is purporting. If this is the case, then every mask being worn becomes potentially contaminated in very little time, whether being worn in solitude or among a store full of shoppers. By virtue of the fact every breath potentially draws in contaminated, infectious particles against the front of a mask, and every exhale potentially pushes contaminated, infectious particles against the face side of the mask, this potentially, and quickly becomes the most contaminated item any one of us can have on our person, or hanging from the rear view mirror awaiting the next point of use.

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.

So here’s what I expect your council to fulfill as commitment of their concern for the health of the general public...

1) Every public indoor area (all stores included) hand out appropriate, new face masks, provided for free by the City of Hamilton , no exceptions. This will be the ONLY way the general public can be assured contamination is not being transferred from store to store, home to store, store to home, car to store, store to car, car to home, home to car, etc., etc..

2) Every public indoor area (all stores included) must have a medical grade disposal unit located at the exit, and, every patron must dispose of their masks upon leaving. Every time! Once again, this will eliminate the transfer of contaminants from store to store, store to car (rear view mirror decor), car to store, car to home, home to car, etc., etc.. This disposal bin and monitoring of mask disposal must be provided free by the City of Hamilton and not become incumbent on the merchant.

3) Failing to provide this level of service and concern for the general well being of City of Hamilton citizens renders the mandatory mask bylaw null and void. Setting all collateral health consequences aside as a result of mask wearing, requesting citizens to participate in an invalid campaign to minimize spread of a contagion during a "crisis" is fraudulent in nature, and inviting cause for liability suits against city and council.

Furthermore, please consider that 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.

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

Your consideration on this matter is duly required.

Respectfully,

Claudia Rey Gent
Dundas, ON