

From: Jesse Newton
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: [Amy](#); [Kolar, Loren](#)
Subject: ATTN: Board of Health RE: Mandatory masks concerns
Date: July 8, 2020 4:54:46 PM

Dear Chair and Members of the Hamilton Board of Health.

Thank you for serving us! I'm Hamilton born and raised, having lived in about six wards, currently residing in Ward 11.

I'm writing to express **my concern over making masks mandatory for indoor public places**. I am not opposed to people voluntarily choosing to wear them. My concerns in brief are:

- **Decreasing case and death counts** even in Stage 2 - what's the rationale? There are currently [0 \(!\) COVID patients at St. Joseph's](#) and [0 \(!\) COVID patients at Hamilton Health Sciences](#). There appear to be [about 66 active \(non-hospitalized\) cases in Hamilton](#) at present.
- **Masks can compromise the immune system** - they reduce oxygen intake and increase CO2 intake (as would be expected). There are supposed "debunking" articles out there, but you can easily find videos showing people measuring real-time CO2 levels inside their mask, which are far above OSHA safety levels of 2000 ppm (US) or approaching sometimes exceeding 5000 ppm (Canada).
- **Division and safety risks to those who can't wear a mask**. Certain residents are already showing signs of aggression to others who don't voluntarily wear masks, imagine how this will increase. Will people not able to wear masks be required to explain themselves over and over? Provide documentation? I don't want to sound crazy, but this is approaching similarity to 1930s Jews in Germany being required to bear the Star of David.
- **Cyclists should NOT be allowed to wear a mask while operating a bike**. Early today we saw a cyclist wearing a mask in 35 deg C heat (with no one around for a whole block). This seems like an accident waiting to happen, a danger to himself and others.

Questions:

- **What's the rationale?** Again, our count is decreasing, there are no current hospitalizations. Initially I thought this was about ensuring hospital capacity?
- **What's the endgame - how long will this go on for?** The Mayor's office noted until a vaccine becomes available. Will vaccines become mandatory?

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your service to our City.

Jesse Newton & Family
Ward 11 resident
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