

4.9 (af)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Do NOT Make Masks Mandatory

Importance: High

From: Sean Everingham

Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 2:47 PM

To: maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca ; mayor@hamilton.ca

Cc: loyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca ; esther.pauls@hamilton.ca

Subject: Do NOT Make Masks Mandatory

Councillor Wilson, Mayor Eisenberger and Council,

I have been a resident in Hamilton for over 20 years (now residing in Ward 1), run a successful business that brings tens of thousands of dollars into the city each year and an MBA graduate of McMaster University.

I am writing you out of concern that Hamilton is headed in the same non-sensical position of mask wearing as other municipalities.

I am in full agreement with Councillor Ferguson that it makes no sense to be imposing a mask by-law 4 months into a pandemic. If we wanted to try to eliminate the virus, it would have made more sense to have this law in place as soon as we knew of its presence in Canada. There is **zero sound science guiding the decision** of this kind of bylaw at this point and the constant moving target of guidelines and recommendations suggests that the **experts are simply guessing** through this entire province.

I also want to point out several of the following points:

- the use of disposable masks is going to lead to far more litter in the city and even if used correctly, will do significant harm to the environment
- most people don't know how to wear a mask properly (ie: either nose exposed or simply not fitted) therefore lulling the public into a false sense of security
- most people will wear disposable masks more than once or will not wash fabric masks on a regular basis, putting them at more risk for contracting respiratory infection and defeating the purpose; they will touch them and put them on and off several times. All of the same things that made the mask wearing during the Spanish flu completely futile.
- Hamilton's vulnerable communities will suffer disproportionately as a result of this by-law
- the response to this pandemic has led many to depression and fear for the future; this mask by-law will only reinforce these negative consequences
- Hamilton's cases of covid-19 are decreasing despite partial re-opening and are in no worse a position than communities that have had mask by-laws in effect for 2+ weeks (ie: Kingston)
- you will begin to create conflict between citizens who have opposing beliefs about the consequences of this virus. Note that there is strong evidence from experts who don't believe any of the lockdown responses have been necessary

Most of all, if there was intelligence guiding these decisions, they would understand you CAN flatten the curve, which we have done successfully! You CANNOT eliminate a virus until there is a vaccine (which isn't happening) or let it run its course until there are not sufficient hosts in which to spread.

We have met the goalpost of flattening the curve. To try and bring in measures to eliminate any spread will only slow the inevitable and leave a wake of depression and destruction in its path. Remember this virus started with just ONE person coming into our country with the virus and we have well surpasses 100,000 cases despite lockdown measures. We WILL get surges in this virus no matter what – it IS what viruses do. Any expert saying otherwise needs to have their credentials re-assessed.

Hamilton is fortunate to be one of the most equipped cities in the province to handle the need to help patients who may need extra help as a result of complications. At this point, its time to re-open and restore hope to people – not create more fear and conflict among your citizens.

I want to applaud Councillors Ferguson and Pauls for voting AGAINST a mask bylaw. I encourage my Ward 1 Councillor, Mayor and remaining Councillors to do the same.

Respectfully,

Sean Everingham