



**Written submission for June 14th Board of Health Meeting from ACORN Hamilton.**

ACORN is a tenant and community organization with a membership of low & moderate income individuals and families in Hamilton. We organize at all levels of government for social & financial justice. We have three chapters in Hamilton: Downtown, East End & Mountain.

The COVID19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on low & moderate income communities. The housing crisis has continued to worsen over the past 15 months - rent continues to rise in Hamilton, the pandemic hasn't stopped landlords from using predatory tactics to force tenants out of their homes & landlords have used COVID-19 as an excuse to reduce/stop essential repairs and pest treatment.

Hamilton's only mandatory measure related to COVID for apartments is the mask bylaw. Enhanced cleaning and safety measures are only recommendations. If tenants have concerns that their landlord is not following basic public health guidelines - they can't ask bylaw to enforce.

ACORN is asking for the city to make these measures mandatory so that if tenants have concerns they can reach out to bylaw to ensure landlords are complying.

- Proper PPE given to building staff while working in the building
- Signage in common areas (laundry rooms, elevators, lobbies) and on every floor encouraging social distancing and hand washing.
- Disinfection of high contact surfaces two times a day
- Deep clean common areas weekly
- Cleaning schedule posted in common area
- Hand sanitizer on every floor and in common areas
- Continue with maintenance/pest control if tenants want, in order to ensure safe/healthy place to stay in during lockdown
- Regularly keep tenants updated on COVID-19 prevention measures
- Provide free PPE in common areas such as laundry room

The City of Toronto has made a number of these measures mandatory:

<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-reopening-recovery-rebuild/covid-19-reopening-guidelines-for-businesses-organizations/covid-19-guidance-commercial-or-residential-buildings/>

Peel Region also has guidelines around ventilation and air flow:

<https://www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/community-spaces/#units>

As public health restrictions get lifted over the coming months - let's make sure that multi-residential buildings are taking every possible precaution to keep tenants safe!

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