

From: [PF-Mailbox-01](#)
To: [Norio, Ann-Marie](#); [Trennum, Matthew](#)
Subject: FW: Online Form - Enquiry from Region website
Date: Friday, July 10, 2020 1:34:50 PM

From: Niagara Region Website
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2020 13:33:40 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Clerks
Cc: webincoming
Subject: Online Form - Enquiry from Region website

Enquiry from Region website

To reply, copy the email address from below and put into 'To'. (if resident entered their email address)

name

Chris Ventura

phone

[REDACTED]

email

[REDACTED]

address

municipality

St. Catharines

other mun

subject

Regional Council/Clerk

comments

Hello Regional Councilors of Niagara, I want to add my voice and the voices of my household and family to the chorus of voices supporting a mandatory mask bylaw in Niagara. I am privileged enough to be able to work from home and thankfully no one in my immediate family has been impacted by COVID-

19. That being said, my parents own a retail grocery store in Niagara Falls, and have been following stricter than required public health guidelines, and were early adopters of mask-wearing in our store. We are even offering masks to shoppers who don't have one, but it is very frustrating for them as business owners who want to ensure every shopper has a mask, but they have nothing to point to in terms of a bylaw or support from the government to enforce what they'd like to do. My dad is diabetic and has a heart condition, and is in the highest risk category for COVID-19, and because he runs the store, he has to be there 60+ hours a week and does not have the luxury of working from home. A mask bylaw would mean that they could enforce a mask only shopping environment, which would reduce his chance of being infected by several orders of magnitude. Beyond the personal reasons for supporting this bylaw, the science and research around the spread of COVID-19 (through aerosol droplets) is increasingly clarifying how even rudimentary face coverings like a homemade cloth mask can significantly reduce the chances of spreading COVID-19. Obviously, masks are not 100% effective, but there are very few if any public health or public safety initiatives that are 100% effective (if there was a policy that increased public safety by 60+%, it would be hailed as a remarkable achievement). As public officials, you have access to Dr. Hirji's work, as well as to staff who can provide the specific research being conducted globally, and locally through the WHO, PHAC, OPH, Brock University, and others, so I am not going to provide specific links to the scientific research as it is our collective responsibility to listen to our scientific leaders and take the best advice from them possible. Thank you for receiving and reviewing this request for your support of the mandatory mask bylaw for Niagara. I hope you will do the right thing and pass this bylaw as soon as possible so we can not only crush the curve of the spread of COVID-19, but accelerate the move to a post-COVID Niagara where these measures will no longer be necessary. The sooner masks are made mandatory, the sooner we can get back to normal. Regards, Chris Ventura MEd. [REDACTED]

reply
yes

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