

From: [PF-Mailbox-01](#)
To: [Norio, Ann-Marie](#); [Trennum, Matthew](#)
Subject: FW: Online Form - Enquiry from Region website
Date: Friday, July 17, 2020 4:44:54 PM

From: Niagara Region Website
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 16:43:49 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Clerks
Cc: webincoming
Subject: Online Form - Enquiry from Region website

Enquiry from Region website

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name

Kate Bezanson

phone

email

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municipality

St. Catharines

other mun

subject

Unconditional Support for Mandatory Indoor Masking

comments

Dear members of Niagara Regional Council: I write to you today to express my unconditional support for adopting mandatory masking in indoor spaces in the Niagara region. The reasons in support of such an approach are well canvassed in public health literature, and other major Canadian municipalities and regions have wisely taken such an approach. In addition to the emerging public health consensus on the advisability of mandatory masking, I urge you to consider the following additional considerations and vote without delay in favour of mandatory indoor masking. 1. Keeping

businesses, workers, and visitors safe: Individual employers are taking different and inconsistent approaches to indoor masking. Such variety results in uneven virus containment, and puts the onus on staff (because Niagara has a great deal of service sector jobs, these are often young staff) to police and enforce safety practices. This puts them at risk of conflict with customers, and also puts their health at risk. Moreover, our region has visitors from many parts of the province and country, increasing risk and harm. Council owes to its citizens the same protections it affords itself and its employees. Mandatory masking achieves this. 2. Childcare and School opening: Adopting mandatory masking now creates the conditions for lower virus spread. Failure to do so puts school and full childcare reopening at risk. If schools and childcare do not reopen at full capacity, parents cannot return to work and the effects on children's mental and social health will be significant. Without parental return to work, there is higher poverty, reduced household spending, slower economic growth, and a guaranteed stalled recovery. There is no economic recovery with childcare and schools, and failure to take this small measure risks the gains and jeopardizes the sacrifices already made. I urge you to take the responsible decision to immediately adopt and without delay implement a mandatory indoor masking bylaw. Yours sincerely, Kate Bezanson, St. Catharines Dr. Kate Bezanson, BA, MA, LLM, PhD Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences & Associate Professor, Sociology SBH 329, Brock University St. Catharines, Ontario, CANADA L2S3A1 kbezanson@brocku.ca

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yes

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