Good evening Councillors , I am writing to you as I am in support of mandatory masking for the safety of our Niagara Region (stop Covid transmission) and to reduce hospitalization which would have a negative effect on elective surgeries if cases surge. As a member of masks4canada we are all supportive of opening the economy with a layered approach that includes masks/Face coverings handwashing/6 ft distancing if possible. We value a supportive approach for anyone that can participate and allow for
accommodation for those who can’t without penalty, (personal shopper/curbside pickup as alternative) maybe businesses can provide masks. As a dental hygienist I have protected my clients with my mask; now it’s the community’s turn to protect me and others. If we normalize mask wearing it will reduce the harassment/racism that our Asian community has endured. The reduction of cases will speak for themselves, please keep our communities in the loop as to how well they are doing. This will keep people participating in this journey till we find a tx or vaccine. Education is a must, this is new to many of us. Please consider the hearing impaired and their interpreters they need an exemption. I have seen some students at Western University designing masks that are clear in the mouth area for our lip. As our society re-opens this coming weekend, the risk of transmitting grows as we start to venture inside more. We are sure to expect a surge of out of towner in our Area, we had over 200 cases today. We are not off to a good start already. Our Rt is 1.26!... if we keep this up we will have over 7000 by the end of the month. How many contact tracers we will need to keep up We need a mask mandate yesterday ... No one can afford another shutdown, not businesses or citizens. Working in dental, our supplies will be sent to the hospital and we quickly will be back where we started. We all want to feel safe in our workplace/our shopping and back enjoying life in a new normal. I truly believe this is the only way we can prevent another lockdown. This is way more harmful economically, financially and mentally. If you see Someone in a mask it’s a sign that we are still at risk in the pandemic and also a gesture of respect. I protect you from my droplets and visca versa. We only need about 70-80% compliance so the nay sayers are a minority and won’t have too much of a negative effect with the goal of reducing transmission.. this isn’t forever.. set a renewal date for review.. Masks compliment current public health measures such as handwashing and 6ft physical distancing principals. If we keep waiting we are behind this curve that is approaching like a tidal wave with opening the most high risk sites, anything indoors. Bars and Strip Clubs will be our highest risk. You will not get names for contract tracing at the Sundowner. Do we have a number of specific number of cases, deaths, hospitalizations that the Niagara Region will put us back to stage 2? They public needs to know. Mandates aside, we have to be accountable, and educated as to our role in society to protect each other from this virus and keep open and keep working to pay our bills, and keep our homes.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7186508/
https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2768532 If you would like any other resources or to discuss with one of our team Physicians, epidemiologist, Infection Disease or biostatistics experts please contact me or our organization. www.masks4canada.org Stay safe ... Leah Ugulini RDH

Sent from my iPhone 11 cell www.masks4canada.org