

Enquiry from Region website

comments

Please, please extend the mask bylaw. I work in frontline food service, in a job where I am forced to have a lot of contact with customers. There was a stark difference in how seriously customers started taking my safety and the safety of the other employees and customers when the bylaw came in. I strongly believe that lowering the requirement to wear a mask this early would put at risk myself, my coworkers, the customers I see, and my family, including my infant child. At this point, generally everyone owns masks and takes the bylaw seriously. The potential harm of keeping the bylaw in place longer than strictly necessary is so small compared to the potential harm of COVID spread increasing due to people failing to wear masks. Thank you

comments

Hello, I am writing in support of extending the mandatory mask by-law. I live in a multi-generational house; my husband and I live with my elderly parents and 3 children ([REDACTED]). My mother has [REDACTED] cancer and is receiving chemotherapy [REDACTED]. We have felt that it is safe to allow my [REDACTED] to start Grade [REDACTED] in person, but we are becoming weary reading that the mandatory mask by-law may come to an end. Please continue the mandatory mask by-law and help keep immunocompromised families like ours safe. Thank you for your time. [REDACTED]

comments

Masking bylaw must continue. It is one of the few pitiful tools we have to try to combat this awful virus. Please don't kill more people in Niagara Region with political negligence. Thank you. - [REDACTED]

comments

I understand that the bylaw on enforcing masking is up for discussion and renewal. I hope that you will extend the time frame for mask required in the Region. The infection rates in Ontario are rising, and now is not the time to let down our guard. Masking is a proven defense against the spread of Covid-19

and with flu season on our doorstep, please extend the bylaw to protect us.
Sincerely [REDACTED]

comments

Masking bylaw must continue. It is one of the few pitiful tools we have to try to combat this awful virus. Please don't kill more people in Niagara Region with political negligence. Thank you. - [REDACTED]

comments

Please extend the mandatory mask bylaw. I am a person living with multiple chronic illnesses, and I share a household with my aging parents, one of whom survived both a massive hemorrhagic stroke and heart surgery over the last two years. We also live with my two sons, one is in elementary school and the other works in a grocery store, and has worked through this entire pandemic with no extra pay, no sick time and no vacation. I continue to work from home for [REDACTED]. We are all longtime (most lifetime) Niagara residents. The mandatory mask bylaw is the only thing that allows us to feel safer going out to gather necessities, medications, run errands, and support local businesses. Without it, we will be sent back into a state of what amounts to lockdown, having to order most of our goods from large, online retailers and worrying that my older son will be at risk from those who frequent the store he works at. Please extend this bylaw. Many Niagara residents continue to need your help to make sure their neighbours do the right thing and keep our community moving forward in the right direction, both economically and in health. Thank you for your time and consideration. [REDACTED]

comments

Please please extend the mandatory mask bi-law. All over Niagara, people are complying with the law because we know it's what is best for our Region and we are seeing the benefits of the majority complying. I care about my fellow citizen, the children who need to be in school and frontline medical and service sector workers. I will be deeply ashamed of the Region if this bylaw isn't extended.

comments

Good afternoon, I am writing because I would like to see the extension of the Region's mask by-law. I'm deeply concerned about the Provincial rise in cases and am concerned about the amount of people from Toronto making their way down to the Niagara Region and more specifically Clifton Hill not wearing masks, majorly overcrowding the area and not socially distancing. Really it's only due to sheer luck that we haven't seen a massive spike in cases due to this reckless behaviour. I am completely in favour of the mask by-law being extended and would like to see it extended into the New Year. I think Niagara residents need to remain vigilant when it comes to this disease. We have done a fairly decent job keeping cases low here and we need it to stay that way and wearing masks, along with all the other measures that we have in place to help protect ourselves is the best way to go. I ask that this Thursday all Regional Councilors vote in favour of this extension.

comments

Please keep the mask bylaws in place. It is unquestionable to not renew this law as we head into the second Covid wave. Please keep schools and businesses open and keep the law. Please also extend it to include outdoors on Clifton Hill where people are not being responsible. It is a small annoyance that protects the lives and wellbeing of so many.

comments

I am submitting this message in regards to the upcoming council meeting where the extension of the mask by-law will be discussed. The face covering by-law (By-law 2020-46) has only been in place for less than two months and I don't believe that that is enough time to make a decision to now eliminate the bylaw. In Niagara we have been able to maintain low numbers, however we are starting to see increases across the province - with students returning to school, more people returning to the work place, and thus more contact with one another, now is not the time to relax our vigilance of protecting our community. Many people are comfortable supporting local business knowing that masks are required by all as an added layer of protection - without the bylaw, many people may reduce their engagement with the local economy in order to protect themselves and their families. I am strongly in support of

extending the mask bylaw - until such a time the community feels that we can protect ourselves using other measures.

comments

I am strongly in favour of extending this bylaw. I work in a medical clinic and since the bylaw was put in place, we have seen almost 100% compliance. People will not wear them if there is no bylaw asking them to. Changing it now without a vaccine, going into a long winter of being mostly indoors and dealing with flu season is absolutely NOT the right move. The masks are working, but people are becoming bored and the numbers are starting to increase in the province. This doesn't mean time to give up. Caution is necessary if we want to keep things manageable and come out the other side with fewer deaths and infections. Just because Niagara's numbers are low now does not mean "toss the masks aside, we're in the clear!" It means stay vigilant. I for one will continue wearing a mask until there is a vaccine available for the public and the numbers are at zero for a few weeks. It's literally the least we can all do for each other. The people who want the bylaw ended are being selfish and short sighted. Please consider the large elderly population in the region as reason enough to do whatever it takes to stop the spread of the virus. I truly hope the council doesn't take these whining individuals seriously and will make a smart decision based on the science available and what's best for it's constituents.

comments

It has come to my attention that you will be discussing the extension of the mask by-law. I would like to encourage you to vote to extend the mask by-law for the foreseeable future to protect essential workers and the public as we interact in stores, public buildings and on public transportation. This simple and easy to use protection is necessary to allow us to shop, work and play in a safe environment. I admit that I find wearing a mask is a nuisance but it is better than the alternative reality of staying home or getting sick. Thanks and be safe!

comments

Council needs to extend the mask enforcement bylaw. It is absolutely crucial for the health and safety of our region, especially now that school has started. If we are putting all of our children back into school buildings, the least we can do as adults is continue to wear masks in public to avoid a second wave.

Those against it are not thinking of the long term effects (or are ignoring the science) that threatens our population, especially the elderly and immunocompromised.

comments

Re: Masks Listen to the science and the medical community: keep the masks by-law in place, sanitize, and keep distance. The alternative is to go into another complete lockdown and stay there until the virus can be eliminated

comments

Re: Review of Face Covering By-Law My entire family are in SUPPORT of extending the Face Covering By-Law until the Province and our CMOH advises it is safe to do so based upon the science and case count trend. We are very nervous that the case count is escalating and removing masks should not be a consideration at this time. I would like to see intensive education to ensure people are wearing face coverings properly. I still am confronted by persons wearing masks below their nose and even more startling, employees at grocery stores not wearing masks. (Zehrs Welland and Superstore St Catharines). Please vote to extend the face covering By-Law. Thank-you [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

comments

Hello, I work at [REDACTED]-within your region. I strongly support continuation of mandatory masks, with an increase in cases in the province the most responsible action is to continue protecting vulnerable populations by decreasing transmission. Masks are an essential line of defence, we will save health care dollars and save lives by keeping cases low. It is a small ask of people. Thank you, I realize I don't live in your region, but I do work in it.

comments

I am emailing to say I support extending the mask bylaw. I own a business downtown and we work very close to our clients. I would not feel safe without masks. Please extend the mask bylaw. Thank you

comments

Please extend the Covid-19 mask by-law AF least until Christmas. As the outreach coordinator for Breakfast at St. George's, I can tell you that our volunteers and clients need this extra layer of protection. None of our clients have complained about having to wear a mask in order to be served.

comments

Attention Niagara Region Counsellors: Please extend the mandatory mask bi-law! It's an easy way to protect ourselves and others, and the science and research shows that it's effective! We have done well compared to the United States, and we want to keep it that way. My parents are in their 80s and we have a lot of seniors in Niagara, we need to do it to protect them, as well as other immunity compromised people. Let's do the right thing and think of others!!! Thank you [REDACTED]

comments

Please keep the mask bylaw in place until a vaccine is found.

comments

Hello, I understand that you will be discussing whether to continue the mask bylaw on September 17. Please continue to require masks. As more studies emerge it is clear that Covid is airborne and highly transmissible. It is also clear that it is not simply about age, or who might die from Covid. Young people are suffering long term effects...and there is still much to learn about the consequences of having had it. Masks only make sense. Please extend the deadline.

comments

Please extend the mask bylaw. With our children and grandchildren in school, people just returning to work and businesses just coming alive again, we can't afford to have the virus gain a foothold through community transmission. We need to keep on an even keel, not go back to stage one or two as there are too many businesses and people counting on staying alive and open. We know masks make a difference. Let's not go backwards in this fight against this

disease. Wearing a mask until we can all be safe isn't such a hardship as being on a ventilator or burying a loved one is.

comments

Hello, I read that extending the mask bylaw is up for discussion this week at council. I am extremely concerned about this issue & would love to see the mask bylaw extended. The more we know about Covid-19 the more it seems that mask wearing is the best way to protect our community from any further outbreaks, especially as we are opening schools and cold & flu season is upon us. Thank you for sharing my message of support for extending the mask bylaw! - [REDACTED]

comments

Hello, I am writing to voice my support of the region continuing to have a mask bylaw. As the scientific evidence and health authorities suggest that wearing a mask helps prevent transmission of Covid-19 I feel much safer when I sometimes go in public places knowing everyone is masked. Please consider the scientific and medical evidence related to this bylaw, not simply loud beliefs of a few who are not experts in the field of medicine, science or infectious disease.

comments

I appreciate that Niagara has a mandatory mask by-law. I'm aware this is a short-term mandate. I feel very strongly that masks should continue to be worn through the fall and winter. Please continue this mask by-law for the safety of our community. I hope we can do what we can to keep our schools and businesses open as we approach winter. Limiting community spread through various factors including mask wearing are essential to keeping the community healthy.

comments

I strongly believe the Niagara Region needs to continue with the face mask bylaw. With the increase of cases in all of Ontario, how can we even think

about getting rid of it now? Cases have exploded all over the world and anyone who believes this is all a farce, needs to get there head out of there butt

comments

I'm writing in support of extending the mandatory mask bylaw. We see that mask use works to help limit the spread of COVID-19. It needs to continue and without legislation people will stop wearing them as they didn't before the bylaw. I encourage you to vote for an extension that is mandatory until a vaccine has been widely available. Please consider the rise in cases that will occur without masks. I have lost my job because of Covid and I think we should do anything possible to combat it.

comments

Please let Council members know that the mask Bylaw should be continued. I believe at least until next spring. Flu season is coming up and the students have returned to school lets keep everyone safe. We've done a good job so far let's not waste everyone's extraordinary efforts!

comments

Please extend the mask by law. It would be even better if people actually wore them over their noses.

comments

Hello. It is my understanding that the bylaw requiring masks to be worn in interior spaces is coming up for renewal. There is still no vaccine for COVID. Individuals with COVID can be completely asymptomatic and yet still contagious, and as a result pass on the virus to young children, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems without even knowing. Wearing a mask is one of the easiest things to do, and when applied across the board, can reduce the possibility of transmission to nearly zero. The idea that we would continue opening businesses (not to mention schools) and not continue requiring masks is absurd. You are elected officials and it is your duty to do what is best for your constituents. Listen to public health, doctors, scientists

and renew this bylaw. Anything else would be willful negligence and ignorance of a devastating and deadly worldwide pandemic. Thank you, -- [REDACTED]

comments

Please extend the mask by-law. With back-to-school barely underway, cold and flu season on the horizon, and COVID-19 numbers already on the rise, we need to keep taking precautions to keep each other safe. Please look at the science, the precedents of other areas with and without masking. Please don't let all our months of sacrifice be for naught.

comments

Re: continuation of mask by-law Good day - in consideration of your discussions on the continuation of the regional mask bylaw, it is my understanding that it is still one of the best tools available to limit spread of COVID-19. I can't fathom that the bylaw won't be extended, however felt the need to voice my support as I understand there are some loud opposition forces. Let's focus on evidence based recommendations. It's much easier to look back and say we are glad we continued on, instead of wishing we had and didn't. If my 3.5 year old can understand why he needs to wear a mask and how it could help protect those around him by not sharing germs, it's not that difficult! Thank you for your leadership in these unprecedented times.

comments

In a regards of the upcoming council meeting and discussing whether to extend the mandatory mask by-law I'm oppose to it and I urge the councillors to consider the obvious- the numbers do not justify this and other draconian measures!

comments

Please extend the mask bylaw. We need to do everything we can to keep those in our community safe. With Covid cases going up and the possibility of being asymptomatic , we need to continue to mask.

comments

Please extend the mask bylaw. With Covid being asymptomatic we need to keep our community safe.

comments

Please extend the current mask bylaw. There is currently an uptick in cases that may only become worse with back to school. I work retail, without the bylaw we are completely vulnerable. We NEED the region's support. We shouldn't be left exposed because of a few selfish people.

comments

Please vote to extend the mask by-law. This is essential to those that are following social distancing guidelines. The masks provide some level of relief from the stress caused by the virus. It provides a more safe environment for people to go out in public when necessary. Thank you for your consideration

██████████

comments

Dear Regional Councillors, I recently read that at the next regional council meeting an extension of the mask bylaw would be discussed. Please extend the mask bylaw. Right now science is telling us that that is one of the best measures we can take to protect ourselves and our communities. Students are in schools and expected to wear masks for the day. If children are doing it successfully and they can be adaptable and show concern for others by wearing masks, so can the adult citizens of the Niagara Region. Sincerely,

██████████

comments

I would like to recommend regional council EXTENDS the mask by-laws. It is absolutely necessary during a global pandemic. It is completely irresponsible to let it expire or revoke it. Please listen to science. Hopefully council will be able to separate out their own "feelings" on the matter and work to ensure safety for us citizens. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the health professionals and scientists if there is still "confusion" on masks. Also, the citizens would like all councillors to come to work prepared, having read all

documents and related paper work. Please be the leaders we need. Ps. Elected officials personal "religious beliefs" need to stay at home, and not come to the office. This is not pandemic related, just good advice.

comments

Please consider extending the mask by-law. Covid 19 is spread through respiratory droplets. Covid 19 is still here and still very much a danger. Masks stop the spread of droplets that spread this virus.

comments

Hello, just heard that many people are emailing about not extending the mask by-law and would like to let you know that I think the by-law needs to be extended, we just don't know, now that we're in stage 3, what will happen without masks. Just because our numbers are low now, doesn't mean they will continue to be, given the current situation, especially with the winter months ahead, many people won't be able to spend as much time outdoors. It just makes sense to keep the mask bylaw in place.

comments

I understand Council will be discussing whether or not they should extend the mask by-law this Thursday. The simple answer is "absolutely." There are some excellent reasons for this: 1) There seems to be a misconception about the role of masks. Wearing a mask protects others from being infected. So, if an individual is a silent carrier, super spreader, or if he has symptoms, a mask will help prevent him from infecting others. We need to wear masks to protect others. In turn, we are then less likely as a community to experience a high rate of infection if everyone is wearing a mask (and we practice social distancing as well as frequent hand-washing). 2) school is now in session, so more large gatherings will facilitate the spread of Covid-19. With greater numbers of Covid infections, the more necessary the mask mandate, to prevent an untenable situation for health care workers. 3) We are heading into flu season, which means society will be more vulnerable to illness from at least 2 deadly viruses. Not only are there more gatherings occurring, they will be happening indoors as the temperature drops, increasing the rate of spread. So, masks will be necessary to contain the spread. Remember, herd immunity does not work here. So, as a citizen of Niagara Region, I am asking that you

please extend the mask mandate to keep us all safe, to keep our local economy on track, to keep our kids in school, our businesses open, and our hospitals and health facilities capable of managing the influx of patients. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

comments

I'm writing to express my support for the mandatory mask by-law in the Niagara Region. As cases in Ontario continue to rise, it is important that we remain vigilant. When everyone wears a mask, we are all safer. Until we have a vaccine, wearing a mask is one of 3 things that can keep us safe (in addition to staying 2 metres apart and regularly washing our hands). It is also important for local business that we continue to wear a mask. If there is an outbreak, businesses will have to close again. I know many businesses in the region are struggling and another lockdown would be the end of many of them. We need to continue to follow the science and continue to do whatever we can to protect our community. Please extend the by-law. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

comments

Good evening, Mask Bylaw Extension I understand that council will be debating the extension of the mask bylaw, as a resident of Niagara and Health & Safety professional with a large local employer, I implore you to extend mask bylaw indefinitely. Masks are an added tool in our fight to stop the spread of COVID 19, along with social distancing and proper hygiene. Unfortunately we are seeing a spike in case numbers throughout the province, we need to do use every tool we have to slow this spike down and protect the community. The Ontario hospital association has just released a plea to the citizens of Ontario about the importance of sticking with public health measures to bring this spike under control. If our hospitals are sounding the alarm we need to pay attention! I often hear well Niagara is doing ok, so why can't we relax things, simple NIAGARA is a destination for the rest of the province, it is critical that our regional government protects our residents from visitors from outside our borders who come to enjoy the beauty of the area supporting our wineries, restaurants and communities, communities that may have higher numbers than ours. Please, extend the mask bylaw. Thank you. [REDACTED]

comments

We are totally in support of the mask by-law being renewed! Masks are a great way for citizens to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

comments

I am writing to request that Regional Council please extend the mask by-law. I would like to see it extended until there is no cause for concern (unfortunately likely until we have a vaccine). In my opinion its a very simple thing that we can do to keep our community members safe, especially those that are most vulnerable. My [REDACTED] Grandmother who suffers from COPD is able to wear a mask without any negative effects. Having this by-law in effect allows elderly and immune compromised people to have some level of freedom as risk is reduced. I am [REDACTED] have a condition that puts me at higher risk of complications should I contract COVID-19. Having a mask by-law in place has allowed me to feel somewhat comfortable to go out and shop at local businesses. If people are not required to wear masks in businesses I would not feel comfortable shopping at store fronts. I believe many people feel this way and that ending the mask by-law could in fact cause more people to shop online and less at local businesses causing financial detriment to our already struggling local and small businesses. Please, lets continue to do all that we can to keep our numbers low and to keep our community safe, healthy and thriving. Wearing a small piece of fabric over our faces is really an incredibly simple and convenient option in the spectrum of this situation. Thank you.

comments

Hello. Please extend the Niagara Region mask bylaw. I believe it is a necessary bylaw to help keep our covid numbers low. It is a minor inconvenience and a cost benefit analysis surely reflects that cancelling this bylaw now would not be worth it. Please vote to keep our Region as safe as possible and extend the bylaw indefinitely until we are no longer at risk. Thank you for your time.

comments

Dear Niagara Regional Councillors, I am writing to you regarding the upcoming vote regarding renewal of the mandatory mask bylaw. It is imperative that this bylaw remains in effect. I am very concerned about Niagara's case numbers

rising should the council vote not to extend mandatory masks. I am pregnant and it is considered a high risk pregnancy. I did not leave my house, other than necessary medical appointments, until the mandatory mask bylaw was put in place. I also have a nine year old who has now returned to in class learning. Children suffered mentally and emotionally during the school shut down. Continued use of masks will assist in keeping our numbers low, which will in turn allow children to continue to attend school, which is imperative for their mental, emotional and social wellbeing. I implore you to please listen to the health experts when making the decision to extend the mandatory mask bylaw. This should not be a political issue, rather an issue of public safety that is guided by the experts. Please vote in favour of protecting the vulnerable citizens of our society. Respectfully, [REDACTED]

comments

Please extend the mask bylaw as it helps to keep myself and my family safe while I return to work in one of the largest tourism destinations in the country. Also, with the returning of kids to school this week, I would especially appreciate keeping our guard up longer.

comments

I understand that you will be discussing the mask by-law extension this week. As a physician, I am concerned that the mask by-law will not be extended. In fact it should be extended, since Ontario Covid infection are far less than those in the U.S. Masks have been proven to slow the spread and help with protection of others. The virus is spread through the air through droplets. Masks slow the spread and distance it travels. Along with social distancing and washing hands with soap these simple tools help protect everyone the best way possible. Compare the Covid numbers to Florida and Israel for example. Ontario is far better since the preventative measures were taken seriously and mandated. I have the seen the aftermath of Covid first hand with my patients who contracted the virus earlier this year. This small inconvenience pails in comparison to difficulty breathing leading to the use of a ventilator in order to breath along with the long lasting complications. Until a proven vaccine has been developed and dispensed to all, everyone is at risk. At the very least, when masks are worn, it shows respect to others. It shows that we care about

one another and are willing to do what it takes to slow the spread. Please extend the mask by-law. It works!

comments

I understand that there will be a vote on whether or not to extend the mask by-law. I believe that the use of masks is essential in the fight to flatten the curve and urge you to extend this by-law.

comments

I think that it is very important to extend the wearing of masks in public places especially indoors. My [REDACTED] daughter has stage 4 metastatic breast cancer and her [REDACTED] son is [REDACTED] diabetic. Their health is compromised and the wearing of masks is an important piece in helping them to stay safe while out there in the community, especially as cases continue to rise in Ontario.

comments

I would like to voice my concerns about regional council considering to end the making by-law. When cases are rising, not falling, we should be staying vigilant not becoming relaxed and complacent. Please extend the bylaw to the end of the year, and review in January. Thank you.

comments

PLEASE do not throw away all our hard work! Keep the mask bylaw in place !!! My mother is [REDACTED] in a retirement home and I'll be heartbroken (not to mention angry) if we go back to square one not being able to see her again.

comments

Please keep the mask by law in effect. It helps keep us safe during the pandemic. This should not be an issue, anywhere. Sincerely, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

comments

To the Clerk and Council. I respectfully request that you move to continue the mandatory mask bylaw for inside buildings until such time as Ontario cases remain under 10 for several weeks in a row. While I fully appreciate that this will take a considerable amount of time, we need to remain vigilant for the next several months and you should not be taking time each few months to revisit this issue when there are so many other important issues to examine. Regards

comments

We absolutely MUST continue our making bylaws. To scrap them now as cases are rising again would be totally stupid. Mask bylaws should be written this time to state it will be in force until there is a period of time at least 8 weeks long where there have been ZERO new covid cases in the province.

comments

Good morning, Thank you for implementing the mask by-law this summer. This has created safer indoor environments in the Niagara Region which has allowed residents to become more active in the community. I support the by-law and hope that as Regional Councillors you continue to demonstrate leadership by extending it. Best regards, [REDACTED]

comments

It is too early to lift the requirement to wear masks in our community when social distancing is not possible. We are heading into autumn and are already seeing an increase in cases. We've worked too hard and it is not safe to do so - let's continue to keep everyone safe!

comments

Please extend the mask by-law in our region. Our regional cases are low because you have proactive, elected officials who have taken heed to science and public health recommendations. As an immuno-compromised resident, the mask by-law extension will continue to provide for my personal health and safety and for all the residents of the Niagara region.

comments

Regional Chair Bradley and Members of Regional Council: I am writing to you today in support of extending Niagara Region's face covering by-law. As a resident of the Town of Lincoln, and a lifelong resident of Niagara Region, it is my duty as a citizen to ensure my voice is heard on what has been the most severe public health crisis to face our community in our lifetimes. The world's understanding of COVID-19 has changed dramatically since the first days of the pandemic. In those early days, the efficacy of wearing anything other than an N95 respirator was doubtful. However, with time and study, the world's understanding of the virus has changed. There is, without question, much that we still do not understand about this virus and how it impacts human health. However, the best scientific minds in the world have shown that there is a demonstrable reduction in the transmission of the virus if face coverings are worn, physical distancing observed, and hand hygiene improved. There are numerous peer reviewed scientific journals which support these facts - The Lancet, the Journal of American Thoracic Society, the Canadian Thoracic Society, The New England Journal of Medicine, The BMJ, etc. Although Niagara's COVID-19 numbers have been low, this is not the time to relax our vigilance. Niagara's low numbers demonstrate that the wearing of face coverings, the observance of physical distancing, and improved hand hygiene work! We have seen over the past two weeks that Ontario's case numbers could be on the rise again. This could be the early signs of a second wave such as what has been seen elsewhere in the world. We need to remain on guard against this virus. We cannot afford to relax. We need our economy to be reopened for the good of us all, and wearing face coverings is a way to make this happen without needlessly putting lives at risk. Niagara Region's own public health experts have said, time and again on this matter, that face coverings work. There are those that will say Niagara's low numbers demonstrate we never needed face coverings and that COVID-19 is not a threat. This is sheer and utter nonsense and reflects a willful ignorance that puts all of us, especially the most vulnerable members of our community, at risk. It is akin to saying that a reduction in automobile crash fatalities are proof that seatbelts should not be required. There are those who say that mandating a face covering is against the Charter of Rights and Freedoms or in violation of some sense of personal liberty. That our great Constitution would be used as a tool for such selfish ends is disappointing. I cannot imagine our parents and grandparents balking at mandatory blackouts during wartime to prevent our cities from being destroyed because of some ill-conceived notion of rights as we have seen with some of the submissions made to Regional Council on this

matter. I urge Regional Council to weigh the scientific facts of this matter carefully, and to discard the falsehoods that have been peddled by opponents to this by-law. To quote the late US Senator, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts". The facts are indisputable - face coverings work. Wearing a face covering is not an assault on individual rights, nor is it a threat to individual health. It is a minor inconvenience that we should all gladly embrace in the name of the duty we have to protect one another from this deadly virus. As Regional Councillors, you owe us Niagarans a duty to do what is right and to act in accordance with the best, most educated advice you have at your disposal. Please extend the Niagara Region face covering by-law for as long as is deemed necessary by our public health experts. Sincerely yours, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

comments

Good morning, I would like to voice my opinion regarding the mandatory mask bylaw that is set to expire. I wholeheartedly support the mask bylaw. It is up to us as a whole to create a safe environment for our children, the elderly, the immune compromised as well as every other citizen in the region. It would be foolish to dispose of the mask bylaw at this time as we are heading in to flu season and school has just begun. I believe not wearing masks at all times would cause cases in Niagara to skyrocket and do more harm than good. Thank you for your consideration.

comments

I am writing in support of council extending the mask by-law beyond October. The number of cases in the province are continuing to rise. Now is not the time to lift measures to control the spread of COVID 19. We are heading into the colder months where people will be forced indoors and into closer contact with each other, we must continue to protect the citizens of Niagara.

comments

Please keep the mask bylaw in place. We are seeing the Covid numbers increasing again. Could this be the second wave? With masks, it may not be a huge wave. Flu season is approaching. Many flu and COVID symptoms are similar. In order to tell if someone has the coronavirus or the flu, testing will be

needed. However, mask wearing could potentially stop some of the spread of the flu. Therefore, we may have less flu cases as well. The province is now in stage three. That is not back to the old normal. There are still restrictions on the size of gatherings and we are still being told to keep to our social bubbles and practice physical distancing. As long as these restrictions are in place, masks should also be in place. It is always better to err on the side of caution. So, please, Niagara Regional Councillors, keep the masks on!

One more thought- the OHA has stated that if the numbers continue to rise, we could see another lockdown. Our lockdown was actually fairly easy. In Australia and New Zealand, they were not allowed to travel between cities. Let's avoid another lockdown - keep masked and protect each other.

comments

Hello, I am deeply concerned with the vocal opposition toward the mandatory mask by-law and it's clear that it is by a small group, which does not represent the majority of us. The research brought to our attention is showing that masks do in fact, cut down the transmission rate of viruses by trapping in the droplets. Masks may not stop you from getting infected but it can stop you from transmitting the virus if you are infected. With the cases going up and schools open, we shouldn't hesitate to extend the by-law. If we fail to keep this by-law in place, we may see a second wave and it may be worse than the first. Please do the right thing and vote to extend the by-law.

comments

Hello, I understand that regional council will be debating the bylaw on mandatory wearing of masks. The bylaw should be extended through the winter. The cooler weather will force more people indoors, leading to a higher risk of infection. We cannot reduce our vigilance. Thank you

comments

I'm writing in favour of extending the mask by-law. In the first week of school we have seen 13 active cases reported in schools throughout Ontario, Ontario's reported daily cases have also increased, and The WHO has also recording record number daily world cases, with Israel being the first country to reimpose lockdown. This isn't a game, and my family aren't pawns. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I am a cancer survivor, and I

have multiple autoimmune diseases [REDACTED]. If council decides to end the mask mandate, and I die because our numbers keep increasing (7 new in Niagara!), which member of city council is sitting my children down and explaining to them why? Keep the masks.

comments

Fully support extending the mask by-law beyond October 1/20. This is NOT the time to let a small number of anti-mask protestors impact the health of the region. A 2nd wave is anticipated Numbers are already increasing. More vigilance not less is prudent

comments

You need to extend the mask by law, not because I'm being too paranoid or because I'm scared of covid. It's easy for the anti mask groups to label the rest of us. I'm a business owner, a parent of both an elementary and secondary school student and a student myself. I've lived in Niagara my entire life and I never in a million years would have thought of our residents as selfish and self absorbed requiring a mask by law to begin with. The bylaw is a good thing. It guarantees that the exposure is cut down, it allows children to go out with their parents and school, it gives seniors security, businesses can rely on everyone working together to keep their employees safe because let's be honest, it's hard enough finding new employees if you don't have mask rules to protect them. It's such a minor task, you either wear it for 15-20 minutes or you're like my husband who wears it for a few hours at a time with zero issues, it's a very tiny thing that we're able to do to keep our customers and community safe. This isn't an argument for personal opinions. This is a major aspect of our communities economic recovery and it's probably the number one reason our numbers aren't worse. Look to the data, real data, not YouTube or a conspiracy site. Talk to our local health authorities and take their advice. Even if I hated masks, I'd still think we should have the bylaw from simply a public health and economic stand point. Be better, don't let Niagara down. Extend the mask by law because it's honestly common sense.

comments

To whom this may concern: I would like to see the mask bylaw extended. As someone with asthma, who has a mother with RA, and a grandfather in his

80s, Covid-19 is a real threat to myself and my family. I have seen that masks are effective at seriously reducing transmission of this virus when the majority of people in the community wear them. In addition, this bylaw helps business owners to remain open safely. Masks in our current climate are essential to our health, our healthcare system, and our economy. Please consider extending the mask bylaw. Regards, [REDACTED]

comments

Hello, I would like to voice my opinion that the mandatory mask by-law be extended past October 1. As the days get chillier, people will be spending more time inside to stay warm and it'll be harder to be physically distanced from each other and buildings may not have the proper ventilation systems to prevent the spread of illness. As we head into cold and flu season during the covid pandemic, I am concerned that not extending the mask by-law will put a lot more people's health at risk. The provincial government eliminated paid sick days, so it concerns me that some people may show up to work while feeling ill because they cannot afford to miss work. Please! I'm hoping you will extend the mandatory mask by-law in an effort to keep Niagara's covid numbers low and protect our most vulnerable citizens. Thank you, [REDACTED]

comments

I've worn a mask since before the bylaw. I have a business and it was one of the ways I was able to keep my community safe. My customers expect it. Do I love wearing it, obviously not but has it hurt me in any way... not at all. It would be complete idiocy to even consider removing the by law, it's such a minor inconvenience that we've all gotten used to. Protect our community and just take the safer route, stop entertaining the notion that this needs to be debated and wasting our time. Extend the by law.

comments

My name is [REDACTED] I have asthma and because of covid my mom and dad put me in online school. My mom says if the numbers don't rise I can go back to my old school and see my friends. If you take away the masks I won't be able to go back to school because people will get sick again and my mom won't think it's safe. I only get to go out with my family because people wear masks, I didn't go out before you made people wear them. My mom and

dad want me to be happy and safe, I have been doing soooo many more things since the masks started. Please don't take them away because kids like me get soooo much freedom because everyone is wearing them. I want to see my friends and my old teacher again and I don't want people to get sick.

comments

As the extension of the mask by-law goes to vote, I would like to express that I am in favour of extending the by-law. I feel we have done a relatively good job managing Covid but it is not yet fully dealt with and I would hate to see more people get sick and potentially die because some folks have grown tired of wearing a mask. They really aren't that much of a nuisance. Please do what is in the best interest of the health of our population, especially the more vulnerable, rather than acquiescing to the complaints about the annoyances or masks.

comments

Hello there, It has been brought to my attention that the mask by-law is up for debate again this coming week. It would be extremely short sighted to remove the bylaw at this time. Cases are currently on the rise in the province, and we need to continue to make the region as safe as possible. We know masks are one of the bests ways to accomplish this. People within the region have been great in following the bylaw, which shows a great understanding and caring for each other. Please extend the mask by law until atleast the end of the year. Thanks, [REDACTED]

comments

Pls maintain the mandatory mask bylaw within r region and province wide until there is a vaccine available to all public persons.. this is r only line of defense in the COVID 19 pandemic.

comments

I am writing in regards to the mask by-law extention and want to let my councilors know that I opposed to the law and its extension. I would like the council to check its own stat page and see that the death rate is now zero in the region and has been for over 2 months as well as understanding that this

virus has a 99.98% recovery rate. Protect our elderly and vulnerable but please allow the general population make its own informed decision whether to wear a mask or not. We have the freedom of choice and should be able to do freely choose whether or not to wear one. I am saddened by the effects that wearing a mask has had on certain people I know. It is sad to see the amount of division going on with this subject. For having a medical exemption and not being able to wear a mask, the amount of disgusted looks from people is horrifying and makes myself and other very uncomfortable to do basic errands! It is heartbreaking. I just ask that you let us make that decision for ourselves. Thank you.

comments

Dear Niagara Region Councillors, I am emailing in support of extending the mandatory mask bylaw that is set to expire October 1st. As a resident of Thorold and a Registered Practical Nurse who is currently working in long term care, I full heartedly support extending the bylaw. There is currently a concerning uptick in case numbers in Ontario and wearing a mask in all indoor public settings is a proven way to protect others and yourself from spreading and contracting the virus. Please consider extending the bylaw, and by doing so, asking Niagara residents to remain vigilant in their actions to fight the spread of covid 19. Niagara is not immune to the virus. Please continue to do all you can to protect the health and safety of the residents of this region, including by extending the mandatory mask wearing bylaw. Thank you for your time and consideration, [REDACTED]

comments

Please extend the mask by-law. The general safety of our collective health are in the hands of government like you to make the correct choice and to not fall victim to bullying tactics from those too ignorant to do research for themselves. Masks work. They have been proven to work. Keep Masks Mandatory PLEASE.

comments

In all the up coming deliberations regarding COVID please extend the mandatory mask requirements for the people of Niagara so we can keep each other safe. The number of Covid cases in Ontario are rising, now is not the

time to loosen restrictions. As well please require those who are medically exempt to carry proof AND wear a face shield. Thank you for your time and dedication to Niagara!

comments

PLEASE extend the mandatory mask bylaw. I cannot imagine what we may face if civilians are left up to their own judgment. We know the cases are increasing and it is a younger age group suggestive of a behavioural cause. Specifically they are not wearing masks nor social distancing in gatherings. We want to have safe and successful return to school, we want our businesses to stay open. In order to have this happen we need to remain vigilant! social distance, wear a mask, wash hands frequently , refrain from touching face and stay home / contact public health if experiencing symptoms. We need our leadership to remain strong - it is the right thing to do to decrease spread of the virus and keep us safe. Please vote to extend the bylaw for mandatory masks at the up and coming Council meeting Sept 17. I will listen in as I did last time - curious to hear the rhetoric from those who don't believe but confident that the Council will do the right thing. Thank you. [REDACTED]

comments

Good Morning Councilors, I understand that a vote is upcoming on the mandatory mask bylaw, on whether to extend it or allow it to expire. I am strongly urging you to continue the mask bylaw, and extend it for the foreseeable future. I know it can be difficult to see the value when Niagara's COVID-19 case numbers have stayed low. However, you can see from other jurisdictions that did not put strong mask bylaws in place that they have not been so lucky and their numbers have risen. My parents are business owners, and since I wrote to you while considering this bylaw, they have been thrilled with the amount of shoppers coming back because masks are mandatory. If they are no longer mandatory, their business, along with many others will suffer as consumer confidence is still very low and a focus on health and safety is key to protecting the business community. Finally I'd draw your attention to some of our European neighbours who are currently on track for a strong second wave of infections. France, UK, Spain, Italy, all of their numbers are looking like a second wave is coming. If you recall the early days of the pandemic, Canada was a few weeks/days behind those European countries in terms of an emergence of the virus as a major disease. Now is the time to

listen to science and now is the time to set the groundwork for Niagara to come out of this epidemic with more lives saved, more confidence in businesses and more faith in our local government who did the right thing and stayed the course on a mandatory mask bylaw, one of the strongest tools in the public health COVID-19 response. Thank you, [REDACTED]

comments

It is imperative that the Regional council vote to retain the current mask bylaw. It appears to be the only way that we can keep the COVID 19 at bay and have some semblance of normal life. Please do not be swayed by conspiracy theorists. Thank you

comments

Mask bylaw MUST remain in effect as is unless we want to see a complete lockdown I do not enjoy wearing one but with the Covid 19 cases increasing it is obviously the right thing to do

comments

To whom it may concern, This email is in support of the mask bylaw in the Niagara region. This bylaw should be extended into the fall and winter season as the entire province is experiencing an uptick of covid-19 cases. As a parent of a child who is on immune suppressants we depend on the region to put forth bylaws that protect everyone. Help ensure we stop the spread and continue the mask bylaw. Thank you [REDACTED]

comments

I am writing in regards to the mask by-law extension and want to let my councilors know that I opposed to the law and its extension. I would like the council to check its own stat page and see that the death rate is now nil in the region and has been for over 2 months as well as understanding that this virus has a 99.98% recovery rate. Protect our elderly and vulnerable but please allow the general population make its own informed decision whether to wear a mask or not. I am not opposed to wearing masks I just ask that you let us make that decision for ourselves. Thank you.

comments

Now is not the time to let up on wearing masks. Please continue the mask order. Thank you

comments

Chair and Councillors, I write to you today to demand you extend the region's mandatory mask by-law. As cases begin to rise again in Ontario it is very clear that a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is well on its way, due in part by the irresponsible reopening measures put in place by Premier Doug Ford. With school starting back up and the back to school plan set out by Minister of Education Stephen Lecce equally as irresponsible, extending the mask by-law is the very least of the measures that need to be taken here in Niagara to protect its residents. Furthermore, to prevent the further criminalization of our region's most vulnerable population, the homeless population, the region should be providing reusable masks for those who are unhoused and cannot afford them or whatever fine comes with a by-law infraction. There are countless local businesses and vendors making masks that could also be supported through this. It is the responsibility of the region to ensure the safety of its residents through this pandemic, that means ALL residents. Thank You,

██████████

comments

Please extend the mandatory mask bylaw. Everyone has a role to play in protecting each other from contracting infectious disease, and this bylaw helps to emphasize the importance of this role. Do not hesitate to extend this bylaw. Council already delayed this once for no reason, do the right thing and be the council that stands on the side of the health and safety of its citizens.

comments

Hi, I would like to see the mask by law remain in effect. It's not an inconvenience and it keeps people safe.

comments

Good Morning, I am writing to express my support for the extension of the mandatory mask by-law in the Niagara Region. We currently have tools such

as stop signs, speed limits and seat belt to keep us safe on the road. A mask by-law is a similar tool that will help keep us safe indoors and in large groups. I am in favour of extending the mask by-law for the following reasons: 1. A region-wide bylaw provides clarity and clear guidelines that are consistent across the entire region, with no ambiguity. 2. It empowers local business owners to post clear signage around mask compliance and removes the burden of enforcement on the region's small business owners. It also will increase the patronage of local businesses by people who wish to shop as safely as possible. 3. Wearing masks is consistent with the WHO and Canada's public health guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19. 4. A growing amount of scientific evidence continues to confirm that face coverings can reduce the transmission of droplets. I understand that a small fraction of individuals opposes the mandatory wearing of masks. I respectfully remind the Regional Council that the by-law already includes an exemption clause to take into consideration those that cannot wear a mask.

comments

Please extend the mask bylaw for the foreseeable future. Wearing the masks and social distancing is NOT that great a hardship and we must continue to give it a chance to keep our infection spread in check. To lift it and then ultimately end up going back to phase 2, or even phase 1 would be much, much harder on people, families and businesses.

comments

EXTEND the mask by law! We are a border community and it has been shown USA tourists are still crossing our border in large numbers. Truck drivers and essential workers from both sides of the border are still crossing for work. They live in the Niagara Region or stay in our hotels and eat at our restaurants. Tourist season is still in high gear in N.O.T.L and in Niagara Falls. Clifton Hill is a potential super spreader location, no matter what their mayor says. The parking lot at the outlet mall off the QEW is full everyday. With the closure of patios imminent due to the weather this is going to force more people inside restaurants and bars. Alcohol and social distancing does not work. To quote the book "Jaws" by Peter Benchley "Intellectually, they knew a great deal. Practically, they chose to know almost nothing." "God isn't going to scribble across the sky. "The shark is gone." " I urge this council to act to keep our rate

of infection low by extending the mask by law. Do not fall victim to pressure groups and QAnon conspiracy theories that are proliferating across the world.

comments

This is a message in response to a Tweet from Laura Ip. I can't believe the counsel would even entertain the idea of NOT extending the mask bylaw. Until the general scientific community agrees that it is no longer necessary to wear masks in public spaces, we should be keeping this bylaw in place. The masses can not be left alone to "do the right thing". As we have seen from our neighbours south of the border. This bylaw NEEDS to stay in place until such a time as there is consensus in the scientific community that they are no longer required.

comments

I'd like to share my support for the extension of the mask requirement by-law for the Niagara region. As school is in session and more businesses are operating I think it's wise to keep this safe guard to limit cases of COVID being spread in the community. Thank you for your service, I hope that you'll take my opinion into account.

comments

Please do NOT amend mandatory mask by-law. Our health and safety depend on it

comments

Hello, I wanted to share my support for extending the mask bylaw. COVID-19 numbers are rising across Ontario and there is no reason we should letting our guard down now, especially as schools have started up. The vocal minority against the mask bylaw do NOT represent the majority. Thank you, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

comments

Please continue to make masks mandatory. It is scientifically proven to reduce the spread of Covid. Until a vaccine is available to all.

comments

Hello, I am writing this email to express my support for the mask by-law extension in the Niagara Region. My parents and myself are both immune compromised and it is extremely concerning that we would be considering lifting the by-law especially when Ontario Case numbers are on the rise. Please extend the by-law.

comments

Hello, I understand you are voting in extending the mandatory mask bylaw and I am in support of this. Cases are on the rise again and it is known that there will be a second wave. Continuing to wear masks is a small thing we can do to stop the spread and I support continuing to do so until this virus is under control. Thank you. [REDACTED]

comments

Niagara Region MUST extend its mask bylaw past Oct. 1 to protect all its residents from COVID. All evidence points to physical distancing and face coverings as the most effective methods in curbing infection. Ending the mask bylaw will inevitably trigger a rise in infection and endanger everyone's health - particularly vulnerable persons. Please do not listen to ill-informed, selfish people who care only about themselves and are willing to endanger their neighbours over something as innocuous as wearing a mask!

comments

I believe the use of masks should be extended to include all people. Some people need to have the decision made for them.

comments

I would like to say that I feel the mask by-law should be extended. With school

starting back, it seems we should pause and consider carefully easing any restrictions. The safety of workers who are interacting with the public daily remains a significant concern, and we are certainly morally obliged to protect each other as well as we can. Thank you

comments

hey, I understand you're deciding whether to extend the mask bylaw or not ? please think of retail and restaurant staff especially in high traffic areas, i.e. niagara falls and niagara on the lake. I work on queen street and we have people visiting from out of town, out of province, have even had americans come into our store. my manager is immunocompromised and more than half of our staff suffer from anxiety, add covid fears into this... this is very hard for us. I don't know if I'd feel comfortable working in a place where I'd have an increased 65% chance of getting covid from someone without a mask - it is pretty much impossible to socially distance properly in our store. please reconsider.... a mask is not a big deal and until someone discovers a vaccine, wearing masks will be saving many lives.

comments

Hello, I am writing to voice my support of extending the mask bylaws. Our covid numbers are steadily increasing in Ontario as people are relaxing from following the guidelines and we cannot continue to go backwards. School has just started. This mandate must stay in place for the time being. For the safety of our children and ourselves, please keep this mandate in place . Thank you for your time, [REDACTED]

comments

I work at a small essential business and the only sense of relief and safety I've felt since all of this started is the mask by-law. No matter how much we sanitize, physical distance, limit the number of people in the store, the only thing that ensures my safety is people wearing masks. We have more new cases in Ontario than we did in June. Now is not the time to lighten restrictions if you want to keep people safe.

comments

To whom it may concern, As an RN in the community, I feel it is essential that we extend the mask bylaw this coming Thursday. Covid numbers in our province are beginning to rise and our community needs to ensure preventatory interventions are in place. Mandatory masks while indoors are one of the simplest and most effective ways of curbing transmission. There may be a small contingent of very vocal anti-maskers, but their personal opinions should not dictate the health and safety of our community. For the well-being of our region, the mask bylaw needs to be extended to help manage a possible second wave. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

comments

To Niagara Regional Council: It is my fervent hope that you will all vote in favour of extending the mandatory mask by-law past October 1st. Lives are at stake and science should be the prevailing determinant. Frankly, the only one. Case numbers are rising. Our children are back in school. It's an experiment with lives. We must reduce any transmission possibility at every potential juncture. I urge you to vote in favour of extendsion. Please, oh please. Yours truly, [REDACTED]

comments

Please continue with the Covid mask indoor by-law. You will be receiving thousands of emails from anti-maskers saying how this is a hoax and not needed. Social distancing and current rules are not being enforced in hockey arenas and with children going back to school the numbers are going to inflate more than they already have in the past few days. There is no reason to put our front line workers at more risk because the uninformed public decided they have suffered enough and want their "freedoms" back. Enforcement of the mask rules should be more strict.

comments

I wish to express my full support of extending the Covid-19 mask requirements in the region. We are currently in the midst of an upswing in cases, and with the complacency being shown recently by people in public spaces, and the recent announcements of Covid being identified in schools, we are almost

certainly in the early stages of the "second wave". There is a very vocal and active minority making a lot of noise about their personal freedoms these day. These people are selfish narcissists who care nothing about the common good, or the health and lives of others. Do not let a few fools cause unnecessary suffering and death.

comments

Dear Council- As a constituent who works in clinical research, I'm writing to express my strong support for the continuance of the mandatory mask bylaw. I am deeply concerned by the contrary positions being expressed by a minority of council members - in particular because their talking points so clearly mimic those of protest groups who have a demonstrated total disregard for the overwhelming consensus among epidemiological experts on these topics. In many cases, a bit of searching uncovers the fact that these same protest groups support dangerous fringe positions on any number of public policy topics, including the safety of vaccinations, which will be our next battle. I would urge council to assign appropriate weight (which is to say, none at all) to the relatively small number of loud, social-media enabled non-experts who are pushing these anti-mask, anti-vaccine agendas. Best Regards [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

comments

Please keep the mask bylaw. Its really just a small inconvenience to potentially help keep others safe. Ridiculous that this is even up for debate again as the numbers around the province are on the rise.

comments

To Chairman Bradley and all Regional Councillors: It's come to my attention that the issue of mask wearing will be discussed at your next Council meeting. I urge you all to please continue with a policy that supports the use of masks. The cases of COVID-19 are increasing again, and this is certainly not the time to listen to a small minority of people who refuse to believe in the scientific research that shows the efficacy of mask wearing as one effective initiative to combat this virus. Say yes to masks!

comments

I am writing to express my support for extending the mandatory mask by-law set to expire on October 1st. As we continue to reopen many parts of our community it is becoming more and more crucial that individuals wear masks when in public. Now is not the time to let our guard down and be too comfortable with the low increases we have seen in Niagara. Mandatory masks also help protect our community from visitors traveling from different regions. We cannot sacrifice the safety of our own community. I was proud of council for passing this by-law in the summer and I think it's even more important now that we continue to practice protocols that protect community health.

comments

I strongly endorse Regional Council extending the mandatory face covering by-law. Besides the fact of flu season, children have just returned to school and we don't yet know what that will mean for case numbers. Already we're seeing an increase in our numbers. I live with my 82 year old mom who suffers from Rheumatoid arthritis, and my 12 year old son who has asthma - there is too much uncertainty to dispense with face covering precautions that may help protect my loved ones. Vote in favour of extending the by-law.

comments

Please extend the mask bi-law, we are entering flu season and our numbers are rising, we must protect one another!

comments

Hello, I'd like to voice my support for the extension of the mask by-law as a COVID-19 measure. Ensuring mask and social distancing compliance is important now more than ever, as children return to school and others to work, and cases are on the rise in Ontario. Especially for my immunocompromised family members, mandatory masks are important in public spaces around the region to ensure our safety. Thank you.

comments

I became aware recently that the Mandatory Mask Bi-law is going to be up for

review this Thursday. I would like to voice my support for this bi-law. The protection the Bi-law provides for the Region is critical during this time. The Covid-19 virus has not been eliminated, as a matter of fact the confirmed Covid cases has been slowly creeping up. We cannot let our guard down prematurely. The benefits that the bi-law provide to the citizens of the Region far out way any reason for its end.

comments

I'm writing this email IN SUPPORT of extending the mask by-law. I feel that it is necessary, along with continuing to practice social distancing, to continue to flatten the curve and to protect not only myself but those I am in contact with.

comments

Concerning the expiration of the mask bi-law. I am a concerned citizen who believes that it is in the best interest of the health and safety of our community to extend the bi-law requiring masks to be worn in enclosed public spaces. Although there are fewer active cases in Niagara than there were at the time the bi-law was enacted, the pandemic is not yet over. The virus is still in our community and vulnerable people still need to be protected. Please err on the side of caution, rather than gamble with public health. Your respectfully.

████████████████████

comments

I am writing a letter in regards to the mandatory Mask Bi-law that is set to expire this Thursday. I believe it was a good decision by the Region of Niagara to implement the bi-law. I also support the extension of the mask bi-law. I support it because wearing one is an effective protective measure when supplemented with other practices such as social distancing, good personal hygiene, etc. Moving away from these measures now is premature and it might move us backwards in our fight against this pandemic and that's a risk I don't think we should be taking.

comments

With case counts now doubling daily and flu season approaching quickly please extend the mask by law for all indoor locations in St. Catharines.

Although those opposed may exceed our voices in volume and misplaced passion it is clear the majority of the citizens of St. Catharines want to be cautious and continue with our protocols as they are.

comments

I am a resident of Niagara Falls and a concerned citizen. I has come to my attention that, in the near future, the council will discuss extending the mandatory mask bylaw. It would be a disgrace to every Canadian who has died from complications due to Covid-19 if we, as a region, do not extend this bylaw. The science is clear and unyielding. Masks help. Covid-19 is not “gone”. It would be irresponsible and irrational to pretend otherwise. The bylaw should be extended indefinitely, until Public Health determines that it is safe to discontinue it. Only then, when actual hard science informs policy, will the citizens of the Niagara Region be safe.

comments

Good afternoon. I would like to make it known, that I believe the Mask Mandate should be extended. We aren't out of danger by any means, and this helps.

comments

Hello, I'm emailing in regards to the mandatory mask by-law that is set to expire on October 1st. As a younger, healthy person in the community I am strongly, **STRONGLY** suggesting that mask mandates remain in place. Cases are rising again with people becoming more lax and it is important that we continue to protect our most vulnerable. Wearing a mask is an absolutely minor inconvenience to ensure our community stays healthy. Niagara has done a wonderful job of keeping the virus under control in our region but we are not near the end now. All the opinions of those who actually have knowledge of the virus is that masks are imperative to slow the spread. For the sake of my near 90 year old grandparents, for my asthmatic father who already went through swine flu, for the small business owners who cannot afford another lockdown, for the employees who must help dozens of people a day, for those on the front lines in our hospitals we must continue to be vigilant. This by-law affects the livelihood of so many and I hope I can trust our council to take the ethical and scientifically proven action by extending it.

comments

Please extend the mandate of wearing masks in stores and restaurants until the danger of Covid 19 is over. Help protect your citizens.

comments

I would like to request that the Council extend the mask by-law until such time as there is a vaccine or a considerable reduction in the cases of Covid 19. This by-law has helped to protect not only the citizens of Niagara but also has had a very positive impact on the economy by allowing businesses to reopen and making people feel comfortable going into stores and other businesses. Not continuing the by law due to a few outspoken conspiracy minded individuals would be a terrible mistake and the majority of Niagara residents are counting on you to help keep them safe and able to go to work. Listen to the experts, this should not a political decision but a science based health decision. Good luck with your deliberations. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

comments

I wholeheartedly support the extension of the mask bylaw for the health and safety of all our citizens. I hope council votes to extend this mandate to protect everyone, particularly our children in schools and our most vulnerable. As a person with immune issues and the mother of two children with life threatening conditions, I feel this mandate is important and helpful.

comments

Please continue/extend the bylaw requiring masks be mandatory. The curve hasn't been completely flattened, and the masks are an essential (and easy) component to getting our numbers back down. I wouldn't feel safe at work without the masks.

comments

Good afternoon. Please consider extending the mask by-law for Niagara until it is safe to go without. Our numbers (while not comparable to those of the US) are still rising, and to get rid of this by-law while being on the verge of a

possible second wave this fall/winter is irresponsible and unsafe for our region. Please keep us and those who are vulnerable safe.

comments

Please extend our mandatory face mask. I believe it's important to get us through this next critical stage. [REDACTED]

comments

Hello Regional Councillors, I strongly support the continuation of the mask by-law. As someone with a public-facing job, who talks to around 100 people per day, I have an anecdotal sense of what the community thinks of the mask by-law. I believe it is a very small percentage of people who are anti-mask, and a very large percentage of people who trust the bylaw and follow it. Some people are apathetic towards virus research, but are happy to wear a mask specifically because of the bylaw. Your decision to create the mandatory mask bylaw was based on scientific research. There has been no new, reputable research to support the ending of the bylaw. Therefore, it should stay in place. I am made nervous by the uptick in confirmed Covid cases, and I am concerned by reports that a vaccine will not be available for years. Please stay strong with the mask bylaw, and give our community the leadership it needs to make the right decisions. The bylaw is an amazing tool for people like me, who are given the task of enforcing a mask requirement rule. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

comments

Please extend the mask bylaw. I am an essential worker in a grocery store. I have worked extra hours to make sure everyone has food. Now is not the time to risk my life or my family's. Think hard before you make a decision that could harm so many people. Thank you

comments

I understand that the regional mandatory mask bylaw is up for vote again this month and I wanted to voice my opinion regarding this mandatory face mask ruling. Despite the reopening of so many businesses in the area and the increased influx of tourists, our new covid-19 cases have remained low compared to other areas in Ontario. I believe this is directly related to the

requirement for social distancing and face mask by all citizens and visitors to the area. Our Region has handled this pandemic very well to date, but its not the time to back off any of the measures that have kept us safe during the worst periods of this pandemic. Health officials around the world continue to warn us about the risks of this virus and the continued need for social distancing and masks. Your continued leadership in this matter is necessary and required. Social distancing and mandatory masks are the only safeguard that we have until a vaccine is available to all citizens of the region. Thank you.

comments

Hi there, I understand there is upcoming debate about removing the mask by law. I for one, think that masks should stay on. I see no reason to drop the mask bylaw. If masks do help, then we need to keep enforcing them. Especially as we head into potential surges. Regards, [REDACTED]

comments

Would you have done away with the seat belt law, drinking & driving laws et al based on a few people who just didn't want to comply regardless of the lives saved???? Then please do not do away with the mask law....this is the latest life saving measure ! People who are so ill they cannot wear a mask should not be outside 'in crowds' or groups where they are susceptible !!!! Masks save lives !!!

comments

As a resident of St. CATHARINES and Niagara region, I support the Region extending the mask bylaw for another 3 months and then reassess. Children have just returned to school and everything needs to be done to support their ongoing attendance at school safely. The Covid numbers are increasing in other parts of Ontario. We need to continue to wear masks, wash hands, physical distance and follow the rules as to how many people can meet in an indoor and outdoor space to keep Niagara's numbers down.

comments

I fully support the extention of the mask bylaw. Countries like South Korea and Taiwan that made masking a priority right from the beginning were able to

quickly suppress Covid outbreaks, whereas countries in most of the rest of the world that did not institute masking policies, struggled and in some cases had to go through terrible ordeals before bringing the epidemic under control. Better late than never, I guess. We now know the importance of masking, and if we keep it up we should have an easy time suppressing further Covid outbreaks.

comments

Hello, I am just writing in regards to the potential renewal of the mask by-law. I would like to urge the Niagara region to extend this by-law for everyone's safety. I think it is severely irresponsible to not have this by-law in place, regardless of whether or not there are some community members who wish this bylaw to end for personal reasons. Most of the people who are against masks are not medically educated and have an individualistic opinion, whereas Niagara region representatives should be looking at the entire community's best interests. In the same way it is not a reasonable response to let someone exercise their personal choice in drinking and driving, it is not a reasonable response to let people congregate in public areas without a mask. The reason being is that this does not only have personal consequences, but also potentially severe and even life-threatening consequences to others. Other people could be taking necessary precautions and still get sick due to the irresponsible actions of others, which is why we have rules around drinking and driving and why we should continue the mask bylaw in place. We may not have all of the answers about COVID, but we do know based on history and current trends in other countries that the second wave of a pandemic is devastatingly worse. Having a mask bylaw in place IS the minimum. Medical professionals all over the world are urging for regular mask usages and even lockdowns. Leaving the decision to medically uneducated citizens is irresponsible and we need to be proactive.

comments

Please extend the mask bylaw until there have been no new Covid-19 cases recorded in the region for at least 14 days.

comments

I urge Regional Council to pass a mask by-law as soon as possible. It is one of

the easiest ways to protect us all from transmitting or catching the virus and quite frankly I am not sure why it has taken the Region so long to put this safety measure in place.

comments

Please extend the mask by-law, I think that it's important to make sure that people stay safe.

comments

Please vote to continue mandatory masking in our Region. Obviously it's necessary, because some people don't understand seriousness of this pandemic.

comments

Hi, I am writing to show my support for the mask by-law being extended. Thank you, [REDACTED]

comments

Mandatory Requirement for Masks Public Spaces - COVID-19 I wanted to share my views on the continuation of using masks/face coverings to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the Niagara Region. As an occupational hygienist for more than 30 years I feel I can speak to this issue. Any occupational hygienist and public health official understands that in order to protect individuals one must implement a control methodology that is based on a hierarchy of controls which ranges from engineering controls (ventilation, isolation), administrative controls (limiting numbers in public spaces, physical distancing) to personal protective equipment (use of masks); providing layers of protection. In occupational settings the Occupational Health and Safety Act requires that employers take all reasonable precautions to protect their employees, and hence the requirement for employees to follow all prescribed requirements (hierarchy of controls) as established by the employer (ex. first line workers). For the general public, this philosophy of applying the hierarchy of controls needs to be the same; understanding that not all controls can be implemented such as ventilation (engineering control). This leaves us with isolation, physical distancing and masks as the alternatives for protection,

which rely on individuals adhering to these requirements. As we have seen, human behaviour and adherence to these requirements varies greatly and more specifically non-adherence has resulted in increased rates of infection. The elimination of the need to wear masks or facial coverings eliminates a fundamental control and layer of protection in our efforts to protect individuals and those most at risk. We do need to respect those individuals that have a bonafide medical reason not to wear a mask, but as a society we must look at the greater good, the protection of all individuals. Wearing a mask to protect myself and others in public spaces is not an imposition to protect a life.

comments

I have heard that there is a possibility that the mask bylaw will be extended but I hope that under the circumstances and the uptake in cases in Ontario you will choose to extend the bi law.

comments

Please vote to keep the mask bylaw in effect! We are already seeing a rise in cases and with schools going again we need to do everything we can to protect each other not only from the virus but also from the affects that having to go back into another lockdown would have on our economy and our residents personal finances and mental health! This is an easy thing to do to help and unfortunately too many people are not willing to wear a mask unless they are forced to do so. And even then many resist. I have asthma and have no problem wearing a mask when needed. Please keep this bylaw in effect when voting! Thank you!

comments

I fully support the extension of the mask bylaw. Wearing a mask doesn't prevent us from going out and about. It's an easy way to help others stay safe. As someone who has immunocompromised family members, I feel it is important to continue with masks to help prevent a second wave.

comments

Please extend the mask bylaw for a few more months at least please. We need it for our own protection! It is clear from the data that we are doing well so

our strategies such as mask-wearing must be working. I urge council to continue to support a region-wide bylaw.

comments

Hello there I am writing regarding the mandatory mask by-law that is set to expire October 1st. With the ever-increasing number of cases in Ontario, I would hope to see this by-law extended as I feel it benefits the public health and the wellbeing of our citizens. Please consider extending this by-law. Thank you.

comments

I strongly feel that masks are very important in the stop of Covid. I am a grade 5 teacher and I can't imagine if the community suddenly doesn't need to wear masks. I know anti maskers are loud, but science prevails. The reason we are in the good spot we are is because of the safety measures taken.

comments

I strongly feel that masks are very important in the stop of Covid. I am a grade 5 teacher and I can't imagine if the community suddenly doesn't need to wear masks. I know anti maskers are loud, but science prevails. The reason we are in the good spot we are is because of the safety measures taken.

comments

Please let the Council know that I fully support requiring the use of the face mask indoors and in crowded public places until COVID-19 has an effective vaccine that has been given to the required majority of the public in our Region.

comments

Aware of the upcoming vote in respect to renewing the mask wearing and I strongly recommend renewing the mask mandate until a vaccine is available for all, we have come this far why abandon a successful formula now. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

comments

I understand the Regional Council will voting on the mask wearing mandate this week and I feel strongly that the mandate should be renewed until a vaccine is available. [REDACTED]

comments

Please vote to extend the mask by-law. It is the only thing that makes it even possible for people who are immune compromised to be able to go out and do things like doctors appointments and get food. Without it the risk for us becomes much too high. Keep doing the right thing and require people to wear maskS as long as this pandemic is still happening. Cases are on the rise and only going to get higher with the reopening of schools.

comments

Good Evening, I am writing to you with regard to the mask by-law and my support for this important by-law. As a resident of Niagara region, the mask by-law has made going out to do essential trips (getting blood taken, prescriptions, medical visits etc.) safer for me and my family. We have an individual in our house that has a genetic lung condition and COVID-19 would be detrimental to his health. By everyone doing their part while COVID is still circulating in our community by wearing masks (which is evident by recent protests that some will only do if mandated), it allows us to more safely and with less anxiety make any required trips out in public. It is clear from medical experts that masks reduce the risk of spreading and exposure to this virus and I encourage Regional Council to think of the most vulnerable and what best for all in our community by extending the mask by-law.

comments

I'm sure your hearing a lot about the mask bylaw, but I'm immunocompromised and I'd just like to thank you for helping to keep us all safe (even if not everyone appreciates it)

comments

I support the mask bylaw extension. It will help us to adapt the new normality.

Face covering has proved to be an effective way to remind people keeping vigilant against the virus.

comments

Please extend the mask by-law, we need to do everything we can to help keep the spread small. With numbers rising again, if you don't renew you will have a bigger fight to bring it back when the second wave hits.

comments

Hello members of council, I would like to express my desire to see the mask by-law extended passed its October 1st expiration date. With cases in Ontario rising and schools back in session, myself and many of my peers see no reason to end the by-law at this time. Masks have been scientifically proven to have a massive impact on curbing the spread of Covid-19 when mixed with social distancing and proper hygiene measures. Please extend the mask by-law and continue to protect the medically vulnerable, elderly, and healthy citizens of the region alike during this ongoing global pandemic. Thank you for your time, [REDACTED]

comments

I have heard that an extension to the mask by-law will be coming up for discussion soon at Council. Scientific evidence and just plain good sense show that wearing a mask helps prevent the spread of disease, and is not a major imposition on the vast majority of citizens. The benefits of a mask by-law are much, much greater than any perceived harm by anti-maskers. If we wish to have any chance of restoring 'normal' life in terms of the economy and health, it is essential that covid-19 does not spread exponentially in the community. A mask by-law is an effective way to prevent this, at very little financial or personal cost. The by-law also helps to show that as a Region we are serious about preventing the uncontrolled spread of this virus. Extending the by-law is a must.

comments

They mandatory indoor mask bylaw needs to be extended. It keeps people in

our community safe, and my extension, keeps our economy running during this difficult time.

comments

Please keep masks mandatory. We have not seen the end of this. No shirt, no shoes, no mask, no service. Thank you for keeping me and my loved ones safe. [REDACTED]

comments

Mask by-law: Please extend the mask by-law. Please do not let the very very loud minority endanger the happily content (and therefore quiet) majority. I have a three year old and a six year old who have easily adjusted to wearing masks. I have at least one disgruntled adult ask me how they can stand it every time I need to take them somewhere. They're just fine - they wear it like they have to wear a hat in summer. We need schools and workplaces open - if this is something we can do to keep the rest of our society functioning, and keep the hospitals out of the red zone, then let's suit up everyone.

comments

I want to express my encouragement for regional Council to extend the face mask by-laws. It is a simple method to help ensure our numbers stay low to allow the economy and schools to remain open. It also helps decrease transmission in trouble areas where people are refusing to distance and allows our more vulnerable to feel safe enough to buy essentials in grocery stores etc. Finally I would like to caution extending it too far at once. Those in our population against mask wearing will be more likely to follow this if they know it is directly related to covid risk. Our numbers are currently increasing. It is reasonable then to extend the by law by a couple of months. There are rumours that it would be until April. I think it is fair to ask council to readdress the issue every couple of months. The end of November would allow council to reassess every other month, before the holiday season if our numbers are better. Thank you for your consideration.

comments

I agree that mandatory face masks both outdoors and. Indoor are required as well as social distancing.

comments

I understand that the mask by-law is set to expire on October 1st. It has been an important piece in keeping Niagara safe. I fully support an extension of the by-law.

comments

I understand you will be voting on mandatory mask By-Laws in our area. We definitely support mandatory mask wearing. Based on the numbers in NOTL, it shows that our numbers continue to be low. We want to keep it that way. Social distancing and mask wearing are definitely keeping us safe. With a potential second wave of the virus, we need to be diligent and do what we can to maintain low numbers. [REDACTED]

comments

Extend the mandatory mask by law. Why is this even up for debate? It's not a matter of opinion, it's cold hard fact that wearing a mask protects the people around you and offers the wearer some protection. It is no different than mandating that people be sober when they drive. They may want to drive drunk but it risks everyone around them who made a better choice. Schools are open and infection numbers are rising, likely due to businesses refusal or inability to enforce proper mask wearing. Frankly, I wish we could do what several other countries are doing and have antimaskers dig the graves for the dead. Keep Niagara safe. Keep our children and seniors and front line workers safe. Listen to the science and keep the mandatory mask by law.

comments

I am writing to Regional Council to encourage you to extend the mandatory indoor masking bylaw until at least April 2021. Masking works to protect ourselves and others; the science is extremely clear on this point. I have family members in my household with compromised immune systems and until the bylaw was passed we were effectively trapped in our home. The bylaw gave us

confidence that people would be masked in local businesses and has allowed us to go shopping and carefully interact with others outside our home. If the bylaw is allowed to expire while the pandemic is still ongoing, I'm afraid we'll have to go back into self-isolation. Unfortunately, there are many selfish people who apparently can't act altruistically to protect their neighbours. I urge you to keep mandatory masking in place over the winter: This is such an easy win on a critical public safety issue in the middle of a pandemic.

comments

It is really important to my health, my families health and our communities' health that the masking by-law be extended. Arguments opposing masks are akin to the ones that opposed seat-belts, and restricting where one can smoke. We will look back on this in disbelief that we ever questioned not requiring a mask during a pandemic. Please extend the masking by-law until at least March 31, 2021

comments

Good morning, Although I have already sent this message to the councilors who represent my home town, I felt it necessary to send it again to include ALL of the regional councilors. My apologies to those who have already received this message. As a resident of Welland, I am writing to express my concerns over the upcoming vote regarding the mask bylaw in the Region of Niagara. I am dumbfounded as to the number of people who do not support this bylaw and I strongly urge you to extend the existing rules for at least another few months. The Niagara Region has seen rather low numbers of reported COVID cases and I stress the word "REPORTED". Since no one knows exactly how many unconfirmed or asymptomatic cases currently exist throughout our region, no one truly can know how risky it is to be moving about in society unmasked. Our numbers are low and as a resident of Niagara, I would certainly like to see this trend continue. I feel that wearing a mask is a small price to pay for the safety of our region. I strongly believe that those who do not wish to wear a mask are being absolutely selfish. Even if it turns out that masks did not actually help in controlling the spread of COVID, at least we'll be able to say that we joined together as a community to do what we thought was right at the time. There are certainly people out there who have conditions that make mask wearing impossible, but they are few compared to the general population and they can certainly be exempted from the bylaw. Businesses

have bent over backward to accommodate those who do not feel comfortable entering their stores. They have provided delivery services and curbside pick up. They have provided safe take-out options and have endured higher operating expenses to make these options possible for their customers. For those who do not want to wear a mask, they can continue to rely on such options to get through their day, but for those who wish to move about within our region, I say they should wear a mask. It seems rather insulting to the entire scientific community to decide otherwise. I also strongly encourage our region to be MUCH more aggressive in enforcing the rules. Those who are hosting large, unsafe gatherings ought to be fined more often. At this point, people should not need "warnings" or "gentle reminders". Enough selfishness. Enough chances. Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns. I am proud to live in a region that takes the concerns of its citizens into account when making decisions. I appreciate how busy you all are. Thank you for the work that you do. I hope you make the right decision regarding this matter. Respectfully, [REDACTED] -Welland resident, parent, self-employed business owner. [REDACTED]

comments

I live in St. Catharines, and am a small business owner (Comfort Kitchen Cafe). I am messaging you about masks and the need to continue wearing them. It IS working in Niagara, our numbers are not bad and that's because by and large the majority of people are respectful of each other and our safety. We don't love it, it's a pain, I can't wear lipstick, but it's keeping my germs to me and mitigates my coming in contact with some possible germs from others. I am absolutely confounded by people irritated that it is a rule, hmmm.... they stop at red lights (hopefully), and someone made that up for the greater good and safety of others. The good of the majority in times like this must outweigh the finicky needs of the vocal few. Science bears the scrutiny, masks help. It's new people don't like it but numbers talk. Please do not do away with this rule yet.

comments

Hello, Hope this email finds you all well. I would like to submit a vote in favor of extending the Mandatory Mask Bylaw. I was unable to find the twitter message

mentioned by NewsTalk 610, therefore, I am sending you this email. Thanks, and have a nice day Regards, [REDACTED]

comments

I hear that the current mask by-law is about to expire and you are considering whether to renew it. I just wanted to reach out to you and thank you for putting the first one in place. My husband is immune compromised, and I have a very low immune system which makes us both high risk for COVID. Even with the mask by law in place we rarely leave our home, but we DO need to buy groceries and other necessities and the by-law means we can both do this with much more ease and less anxiety. It also means, instead of buying most our things through online stores, we can go into local shops and keep supporting the local community. Without a by-law ensuring employees and customers were also in masks we only bought what we absolutely had to (groceries) in person. We don't live in a community with easy accessibility to things like grocery delivery without a by-law in place many people and shops would have almost no precautions at all which means every time we grocery shop we're putting my husband at risk of dying. I know the anti maskers are vocal, but their argument is invalid. We have laws that require us to wear shirts when in stores, no one complains about their freedom. Same with shoes being required. We have laws to wear seatbelts and people don't complain because seatbelts save lives. Masks save lives too, they don't see that though because THEY aren't the ones who are sick at the moment. School has just started back and in person school has proven to be a problem in so many places already, please don't remove the mask by-law just when so many kids are putting so many adults at greater risk. I ask that you consider all of those households like mine where someone is likely to die if we come in contact with it who are doing all we can to prevent that, living shut down and isolated lives, but need the rest of the community to do this one thing to keep us safe. Thank you.

comments

Hello I am writing to you in regards to the upcoming vote you have to extend the mask Bylaw. Can this not be on a 30 day or 60 day basis? Why do we have to vote on something so restricting for six more months when we have yet to see what this winter and spring will hold? As someone who struggles with anxiety it is hard to hear that you will just put a blanket 6 + month date on

it right off the get go, when every time I go out with a mask it is a struggle. It seems very radical to vote that far out. Please reconsider the April date and update it more frequently.

comments

Dear Councillors, I am writing to you regarding the Region's mandatory mask by-law. I understand that council has heard from those opposed to the by-law. This message is intended to add my voice to those in favour of extending the by-law. I understand that Council may be feeling pressure from those who are against the by-law, but it is my hope that expert advice (WHO), evidence and science will prevail and that it will be extended. There have been similar debates in the past (e.g. mandatory seat-belt laws) that balanced personal freedom and public good, however the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few. In the case of COVID-19, this disease does not weigh moral choices, or debate philosophical positions, it just spreads and kills. We have to do everything we can to keep our community safe and healthy. Masks are a key piece of this. History will prove this to be the wise decision. In the words of Lin-Manuel Miranda: "History has its eyes on you". Thank you for your service on Regional Council. [REDACTED] proud Niagara resident

comments

I would like to speak up and say that I am absolutely FOR the extension of the mandatory mask bylaw. As an immuno-compromised person, I really appreciate the efforts going into keeping us safer. [REDACTED]

comments

Hello, this email is to show my desire for the mask bylaw to be extended. It is allowing places to stay open and operational while keeping everyone much safer. We aren't out of the woods yet and it would be best to keep ourselves safe and healthy with mild discomfort rather than risk people getting COVID when it could have been otherwise avoided.

comments

Don't know how else to voice opinion to council. Yes, please, absolutely extend the mask bylaw until next year. Already too many selfish non-believers out

there trying to spread disease around. Being the tourism, area that we are, the extension is definitely needed. Without the bylaw leaves it open to argument about masks. Workers at stores and venues do not need the extra stress of arguing with the antimaskers. Thanks [REDACTED] worker-taxpayer

comments

Re: Mask by-law. Please ensure this bylaw is extended. It is critical to protect all residents of the region. It is the only way to continue stemming spread of the virus until a suitable vaccine is widely available. The region is in decent shape and it is prudent to keep it that way by ensure the mask bylaw is extended to April 1 and beyond.

comments

I am writing in regards to the vote upcoming about the mask bylaw. As a member of the hospitality industry I support an extension of the mask by-law for the safety of the community especially with consideration of the uptick of Covid-19 cases in the province of Ontario. Thank you for your time

comments

Please, extend the mask bylaw! We are nowhere near finished with this pandemic. We have worked hard to decrease cases; easing the bylaw now will only lead to increases again--like taking a parachute off mid-fall because the fall isn't that bad. This is not about individual 'liberty' or wants--this is about us being humans living in a society and needing to take care of each other. We need to get through this together and look out for the vulnerable in our community.

comments

To whom it may concern, I find it alarming that ending the mandatory mask order is even a consideration at this current time. If institutions such as universities and office workspaces are still working remotely for the safety of this staff why are we putting people in vulnerable employment situations (who don't have the privilege of working from home because it is not viable) at risk? It would be irresponsible to end the mandatory mask bylaw. It would take away protections from the people we were so quick to label "essential" and "heroes"

that whom we commended for putting themselves at risk. Also to add to that, Covid has not magically gone away the cases have been steadily climbing masks and distancing are still a proven way to keep cases low. Mandatory mask orders and distancing are the reason cases dropped and stayed low through the past months, removing them now would insure an increase and a second wave lockdown.

comments

hi! I fully support keeping masks in place, and fully encourage more monitoring of masks not being worn at all in the church settings. The towns work so hard to wear masks, young and old, only for churches to totally dismiss the use of them in an enclosed building. We are trying to keep us all healthy, masks should be enforced. Thank you!

comments

Please keep the masks till April. If things get better, you always could change the date.. Appreciate the work you are doing, trying to keep everyone safe.

comments

PLEASE extend the mask bylaw to July 2021. As the mother of a newborn who was born in April at the height of the pandemic I expect my elected officials to do the right thing to keep the regions most vulnerable safe. Masks are working. Social distancing is working. Keeping gathering small is working. Niagara's covid track record so far is because of these measures. Now, as school is back and we are heading into the colder months, is not the time to vote to loosen protective measures. I want my family to be safe. My daughter is 4 months old and cannot wear a mask so I BEG that others who can will wear one to keep her safe. My family is more than happy to do our part to keep others safe - we will continue to wear masks no matter what. All I ask from my elected officials is that you represent me in an effort to keep our community healthy and safe by expecting that everyone will wear a mask. That's it. It's not too much to ask of you or of any member of the Niagara community. Thank you and I hope that the right decision will be made.

comments

Please note that I directed my email in support of continuing the mandatory mask by-law to the "Health" area. In addition, please note the majority of the people I know don't object to wearing a mask to keep our numbers down and minimize risk.

comments

Please stop the mandatory mask. They are doing nothing to stop the spread of the virus. If you have to do something instead please focus on hand washing and social distancing. Thank you!

comments

Please extend the bylaw on wearing masks. The numbers are going up again in the province and locally, and we need to do as much as possible to prevent it getting out of control.

comments

I understand you are voting on whether or not to extend the mandatory mask bylaw. It is difficult for me to even understand this is something to be voted on. Please, for the safety of your residents, especially the vulnerable people, extend the mandatory mask bylaw. My children feel safer. My husband and I still feel we can visit our elderly parents because our children and we wear masks. I can't imagine putting them at risk if all of a sudden it isn't mandatory.

comments

Morning, I'm a school bus driver and the by law right now is grade 4 and up don't need to wear a mask. I feel that everyone should like other municipalities, for example, Hamilton, Halton, Toronto, and also Kwarthras and so on are mandatory for all ages. I'm wondering why our region decided that it wasn't a good idea and did not follow other regions. I'm writing this because I have 51 students on my bus at 1 time and 42 of them are all under the grade 2! Its too many. Parents are not social distancing at bus stop and the busses are 3 to a seat. This needs to be looked at as numbers are rising and the young could spread as well, or to the drivers. Thank you for your time [REDACTED]

comments

Yes please extend mask use to protect all of us . Thank you

comments

With the number of COVID cases increasing it should be a priority to have wearing masks mandatory.

comments

It is imperative that Niagara Council votes to extend the mask by-law for the Niagara Region. My [REDACTED] is immunocompromised, and has been lucky to be able to work from home during the pandemic. I have not been so lucky, and have been working at a retail store where I deal with the public on a daily basis full time. The numbers of cases in Toronto continue to rise, and the numbers of Torontonians who feel they are entitled to come to Niagara to shop and sight see continues to rise. In order to keep the infection numbers low in Niagara, we must extend the mask by-law to keep everyone safe.

comments

I strongly believe that mandatory masks need to continue for a significant period of time. At least until people have been vaccinated. We do not know who carries it with no symptoms. People from areas with high numbers come to Niagara. And many people have mistaken belief that this is not serious. Even if they were sick with symptoms they would go out without a mask UNLESS we have a mandatory mask policy. The people of Niagara deserve as much protection as possible.

comments

Speaking as a health care professional I am in full support and believe it is your obligation to continue the mask by-law for an additional 6 months. The health of the many outweighs those inconvenienced. Currently I take pride in the fact that I work for and live in the Niagara region. But if this by-law is not extended that might change. It is our responsibility to take care of the vulnerable.

comments

Dear Regional Council, My name is [REDACTED] and I live in St Catharines. COVID has brought on an immense amount of struggles, challenges, and new issues for everyone, and my family has not been immune to that. If anything it's been the opposite. My [REDACTED] has stage 4 cancer and is currently undergoing treatment to try and stay alive. [REDACTED] would be in the category of "immunocompromised" so the risk to [REDACTED] surrounding COVID-19 is extremely high. We've had to be incredibly careful with where we go, who we interact with, and what we do. For me, it could look like a 2-week illness but for [REDACTED], there's a high chance of it taking [REDACTED] life. At the start of the COVID season, this brought on a ton of stress and anxiety for our family as we wandered through the unknowns. And then, the mandatory masking bylaw was put into effect. That bylaw did not solve all of our problems and by no means did it make everything better. But I would be lying to you if I said it didn't give me peace of mind knowing that when I was doing grocery runs and necessary shopping trips for my family, it made me feel safer and more secure knowing that people had to take the same precautions I did and that the risk of me bringing COVID into our home was in some part reduced. This is why I write to you today and strongly urge you to pass the amendment on Thursday evening, extending the mandatory masking bylaw to April 1st, 2021. If not for me, or for you, for my [REDACTED]. And the countless people who are in a similar situation to hers, with loved ones just trying to keep them safe, healthy, and alive. Sincerely [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

comments

Please vote to continue the mandatory mask bylaw! [REDACTED] stage 4 metastatic breast cancer and having everyone masked in stores etc. is one more layer of protection for my family who have to be out in the workplace and community. For all of us fighting with chronic illness and compromised immune systems, please, please vote in favour on Thursday. Our lives may depend on it!!

comments

Good afternoon, I am a St. Catharines resident and public school teacher. I am concerned about the potential action that will be taken by the council to remove the mask mandate, and would like to make it known that I support the continuation of the mask mandate in the Niagara region. The impact of schools being back in session are not yet known, and require us to watch numbers for

at least two weeks following the first day of opening. With increased opportunities for exposure in schools and workplaces, it is necessary that our community does everything they can in public spaces to protect our own. Additionally, case numbers are beginning to rise once again in the province and our region. Removing the mask mandate as we approach the second wave is counter intuitive . Please support the continuation of the mask mandate to protect all of our community from COVID and to protect the local economy from the threat of another shut down if our numbers skyrocket due to respiratory etiquette negligence. Thank you, [REDACTED]

comments

Please do not give into the anti-science pressure to eliminate the mask mandate until the infection rate has fallen for a certain number of days, or falls below a certain threshold for a certain number of days, or ultimately until the Federal and regional health ministers advise that the risk of COVID-19 is under control and masks are no longer required. Protect the citizens of our region, especially front line healthcare workers, BIPOC people, the homeless, the elderly, and those with co-morbidities, including those within my own family. Please do not give into political pressure. Keep us safe.

comments

Good afternoon, I'm writing because I have heard that Niagara is considering extending their mandatory masks until April 1st. This is appalling to me. We have no idea what will happen before April. If they must extend it (I don't believe it should have been put into law in the first place!) they should only do it 2 months at a time. Although the cases are rising, the deaths and hospitalizations are not. This is simply a "case" pandemic and we have to get over this unnecessary fear and live our lives. Mandating masks causes division and real difficulties for those who can't wear them. They are scared to go out because of how others will treat them. Please use common sense instead of going by the fear that the media has been drilling us with. Masks aren't proven to be effective and we are treating them like our saviour. Thank you for your time, Diane Feenstra

comments

Hello: I am writing in support of extending the mandatory mask bylaw. Every

reasonable and caring argument is in favour of masks right now. Real science is in favour of masks. Dr Tam even wants us to wear them while having sex so please, lead the region with good intention, be a lover, wear a mask, and don't give in to the loud and poorly informed. Extend the bylaw. Thank you gf

comments

Hello, I am writing in regards to the vote taking place on Thursday in regards to the mask bylaw. I cannot express how important I believe it is for our children, elderly, chronically ill, and community as a whole to continue to have the mask mandate bylaw in place. As an educator with the DSBN, some of the most valuable things I try to model for my students are empathy, responsibility and respect. Wearing a mask during a global pandemic is such an act. As Ontario has begun to 'open back up' we have seen a spike in Covid-19 cases, and it is our jobs as active and positive citizens of our communities to protect our communities however we can. Upholding the current bylaw would do just this. I know our communities' best interests are no doubt at the forefront of your minds, and so I would employ you to uphold the current mask mandate/bylaw so we can continue to show respect, responsibility, and have empathy for those around us. - [REDACTED]

comments

I hope this email reaches all regional council members. I want to express my sincere hope that council will extend the bylaw requiring people to wear masks while inside any building open or accessed by the public. I am really concerned about the growing apathy of some re continued observation of COVID 19 precautions, especially those who ignore the social distancing recommendation of keeping a six foot distance from others. I also think the region should do more to publicize the Ontario Public health recommendation for Ontario residents to self isolate when they return from travel outside the PROVINCE. The quarantine act is a federal act but the Ontario provincial recommendation is for anyone travelling outside our province should self isolate upon return to Ontario. I think some Ontarians are doing interprovincial travel & don't realize the recommendation from public health to self isolate exists.

comments

Please consider extending the mask bylaw. It is so important, especially as COVID-19 cases in Ontario increase again.