

Enquiry from Region website

comments

Hello Regional Council, I do not support the extension to the mandatory mask bylaw. The World Health Organization has released a report in June stating that there is no scientific evidence that wearing a mask as a healthy person reduces the spread of COVID. "Advice to decision makers on the use of masks for the general public Many countries have recommended the use of fabric masks/face coverings for the general public. At the present time, *****the widespread use of masks by healthy people in the community setting is not yet supported by high quality or direct scientific evidence***** and there are potential benefits and harms to consider (see below)."

[https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak) Niagara Regions increases in cases from the end of May to the introduction of the mandatory mask bylaw have been comparable to the introduction of the bylaw to today. There is not enough of a rational link between the law's purpose (helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in indoor public spaces) and its effect on people's liberty (being unable to legally enter enclosed spaces without a mask or exemption). The mandatory mask bylaw should not be extended. Best Regards, ~ [REDACTED] I understand that you are probably very busy and do not expect a reply, however feel free to do so if you wish.

comments

Please do not extend mask by-law. Charter of Human rights cannot allow a fine for not wearing mask, The persons who have health issues, that Covid could jeopardize their life, should wear a mask and shelter in place. Not healthy people. Consider Human Rights violations when voting for extending and or fines for no masks. The time is now, for those like you, who make decisions for the rest of us,.....to do research on this. There's plenty of evidence on both sides about wearing masks. It's difficult to believe that all councillors would be in agreement on mask wearing. Why do you follow the herd? It looks a lot like school yard bullying, beginning right at the top!

comments

Hello, I want to thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns over "Mandatory Masks" and the upcoming vote regarding this subject. I know your time is valuable and you are likely receiving many emails on this subject so I will keep this as short as possible and will use bullet points to help facilitate this. I appreciate your taking this information into consideration. - Requirements for a Pandemic state has never been reached or even come close to being met - Requirements for a "State of emergency" have never been close to being met in Canada, Ontario or Niagara, thus this and many other measures are to be questioned. - To date there have been 64 deaths in Niagara Region out of approx 450,000 people, 52 of those have been in a long term care facilities and were people with other major health issues, leaving 12 deaths of average citizens. - 12 deaths or even 64 deaths clearly does not show a state of emergency by any standard, this alone should be enough for this vote to change to No Mandatory masks. - Mandatory masks violates sections 2(a) & (b) and 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, this alone should be enough for this vote to change to No Mandatory masks in Niagara and all of Canada. - Things have now moved to testing every person, covid19 has a lower death rate by far than the seasonal flu, there have never been testing of healthy people or mandatory anything in past for the flu, why this, why now? - The estimates of death and infection were outrageously exaggerated from the start and have not come to fruition, thus this "State of Emergency" should be lifted as the criteria has never been met, and life should return to normal. - Leaders can not govern by what "May" happen, they must govern by the facts, the fact is the data on covid19 is in after 9 months and it is less viral and less deadly than seasonal flu for the average person, clearly this does not require mandatory anything moving forward and should nullify the "State of Emergency" we are still under. - Case in point, the Ontario government closed Hospitals to all surgeries and visits, a most basic need of our society to wait for a massive influx of covid cases that never came, hospitals sat empty for months while people have died and are suffering due to this decision on false or lack of information, this cannot be said at this time, you have the information to make logical safe decisions for our citizens. - 80-85% of people that test positive have No symptoms, how can our government say this is a deadly disease when the overwhelming majority of people who test positive don't even know they have it? The statistics show this is Not very deadly and does not require citizens to cover their face to buy groceries or walk to the bathroom in a restaurant. - We went from shut down our way of life and almost all business and quarantine for two weeks to "flatten the curve", to

we must defeat this virus at all cost, and test every person? - Mandatory masks were introduced when we had the Lowest case count in all of Ontario? This is illogical. - Studies show wearing masks have No effect on stopping or slowing this or any virus, it literally says it on the box the masks come in, surely the mask manufacturer should know what their product can and cannot do? - This should be a Non issue, If masks do not work, can actually harm people, and goes against our Charter of Rights? - We will Not go back to normal until we get a vaccine is what our Prime Minister said in every speech from the beginning, this agenda is very clear. - What's next, mandatory vaccines, contact tracing for this non deadly virus? - Every measure proposed or taken by our government during this situation has violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms of all Canadians, this is unacceptable with little information at the beginning, it is now egregious and criminal as there is 9 months of data to rely on. Again I thank you for considering the above points, I trust your vote will be logical while not violating the rights of our your fellow Niagara citizens. Thank you! [REDACTED]

comments

To All Councillors: Re: Your Emergency Measures Meeting in Sept, it seemed almost each and every Councillor looked to DR. Hirji for direction as to the measures to be undertaken, to the point where it seemed he was actually running the meeting. When questioned on masking, you will note that Dr. Hirji responded foremost with maintaining physical distance as his first response, repeatedly, however his answers were continually overlooked by the majority of Councillors who reverted to making the masks the focus. Further, when questioned about the protest for Unmasking at Niagara Region this week, Dr. Hirji 's response was, "I wished they would be further apart". He said nothing on the masking. Doctor Hirji is the Acting Medical Officer of Health and Commissioner hired by the Region for his knowledge and recommendations. Perhaps his advice should have been taken into consideration. Your constituents rely on you to validate the assertions and make the appropriate decision. This false sense of security is harmful to those people who believe that mask is their foolproof protection against this virus. They need to be aware of all the facts in order for them to make their own intelligent decision as to whether wearing one is beneficial to themselves or not. We all know by now the data on the masks. Dr. Tam says the virus is transmitted by droplets, the mask prevents the droplets from going directly to your face. Instead, those droplets that contain the virus are now adhered to your mask and in the

surrounding air – and where do you think that virus is going to from there? No matter how tightly woven, those holes are a like tunnel to that virus, there are openings all around the masks – that is why paper/cloth masks don't work. For confirmation, read the directions on the box. And you ask why you are seeing increased cases?

comments

Hello, With a death rate much lower than the seasonal flu, there is obviously No need for masks to be mandatory. The Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments collectively are decimating our economy, killing peoples businesses and livelihoods, with lockdowns and restrictions! This is unacceptable! Testing every person with NO signs of illness has Never been done before, this practice is a waste of tax payers money and time, a person may test negative at that exact moment but contract something on way out of building, the tests are useless and only used as a tactic to keep people afraid. The only testing that means anything is tests on people who are actually ill and the number of people admitted to hospital, these are the only meaningful points of data worth collecting. The patent on the PCR tests being used show clearly they are not even looking for covid19, why has there not been a test made in last 8 months that actually tests for this virus? I'm sure the CDC has had the time since they have the patent on this test? There is No need for any further actions by the governments of Ontario at this time. Thank you

comments

Hello, Im writing because Im concerned about the mandatory mask by-law. I am strongly opposed to extending the by law. Not only have case numbers had little change since the implementation they have also begun to rise again. If people want to wear a mask they can choose to do so but to force it upon people is unconstitutional.

comments

NO MORE MASKS THEY R FILTHY UNHEALTHY AND DISGUSTING!!!!

comments

I do not want a perminant mandatory mask bylaw to be put in effect. I do not

want to wear a mask in public. A mask bylaw should be optional. Half the population voted against masks. I refuse to wear a mask in public. I have personal and health issues that debilitated my physical and mental health when being subjected to wearing a mask. I do not agree with your new proposition and am against wearing masks!

comments

Hello there! I just wanted to start off by saying thank you for all that you do for the Niagara region. Ive grown up in Niagara and lived here my whole life, it's a beautiful, wonderful place to live. The mandatory mask bylaw is where this region, province and country has certainly crossed the line. The numbers clearly illustrate that the deaths from Covid are mildly worse than that of the average seasonal flu, which we have been experiencing since the beginning of time. If the mask protects the person that's wearing it, and they believe they need to be wearing it, it should be their right to do so. It should also be my right to not wear a mask if that's what I so choose. Our rights and freedoms are being stripped and Covid is the excuse. This is completely unacceptable and if we don't rise up our lives will be changed forever. Masks are just the beginning. Do 5 minutes of your own research and see what's happening in Australia right now. It's naive to think we won't be next at the current rate things are moving at. There is also evidence that mask wearing is dangerous. Someone I know recently passed away from re-using the same mask every day and they died from a lung infection that that mask caused. They wore the same mask every day because they couldn't afford an alternative. Children in schools have died from wearing masks in gym class across the world. Masks should be optional. We were born in this Country with a set of rights and they are currently in the process of being taken away. It's happening before our very eyes and its happening quickly. I'm emailing you because you have the power to stop it. Don't let us become the next Australia, or worse. Stand up before it's too late. [REDACTED]

comments

Please stop the political and community divisiveness by ending the bylaw. The scientific research doesn't support wearing masks to reduce the spread of an airborne virus. While masks might prevent droplet spread, they increase aerosolized spread by way of evaporation off the mask... the primary mode of transmission is in aerosolized form! If it really was about preventing virus

spread, then type, quality, design of mask would be a big deal but I don't see any of this being promoted... just cover your face, who cares what with, just cover up. Can you see that this is a social indoctrination? The consequences from which will cause you and your loved ones to suffer as time moves on. Covering the face has to do with shame and depersonalization, is this something you want to contribute to?

comments

Let people choose to wear masks or not. It should absolutely be our choice! I support those who want to wear them and those who don't. My kids have been in person classes 2 days wearing masks and already have runny noses and sore dry throats breathing in their own germs all day. My oldest sits at his desk eating lunch with no mask, but has to put it right back on after..? Come on, please explain how that makes any kind of sense. Restaurants are the same. Wear your mask to check in or use the washroom but take it off at the table. 0 sense! Give us our freedom back. The human body needs some level of germs to survive. Masks need to be a choice, not a law.

comments

To the Clerk of the Niagara Region With regards to the upcoming meeting about extending the mask by-law I would like to voice my concern. Since the numbers of COVID in the Niagara Region are very low why would the mask by-law be extended to April 1, 2021? A better idea would be to review the situation each month and make decisions according to this. Please pass this information on to the Counselor so that he/she will vote NO against extending this by-law. Thanks!

comments

Since everyone else is doing I figured why not. This email is coming forward regarding the mask bylaw that's currently in place and in the talks of possible extension.. With the numbers as low as they are within the Niagara region I would like to see an option for masks. Please consider removing the bylaw for mandatory masks and allow the residents of the Niagara Region have a choice in this matter. If someone wants to wear a mask, let them. If someone doesn't want to wear a mask, let them not wear one! Make an option that it's highly encouraged and that we ask/prefer you to wear one, but if you forgot, or it

breaks and you simply don't have it for any other reason you won't be shamed or not served because you don't have one. I feel that if you extend the bylaw to be mandatory, we will see a lot more people starting to not wear masks claiming a medical condition especially because there is no requirement to provide proof. On another note, continue keeping things closed that would be too hard to social distance, continue keeping reduced hours, increased cleaning routines with other preventative measures to ensure we continue to reduce the spread. To the members of council, please consider this when making a decision for Niagara.

comments

Hi, I would like the mandatory mask by-law to be eliminated. Recommended is fine, but forcing people to wear a mask because government says so is an overreach in power. Respect people enough to let them choose. Continuing this power-grab (which is in all levels of government these days) will result in you losing my vote next election. I understand that at the beginning of all this in March there was a lot of fear, but now there is more science and knowledge which says we don't have to be so afraid. Check out Sweden! A lot of people need their freedom back, not more fear. [REDACTED]

comments

Please stop the wearing of masks mandatory . It is a subject of much debate, many studies show it does nothing to prevent the virus from spreading. People touch their faces, masks are worn multiple times, stuffed in pockets, fall in the ground. It is NOT sanitary. Above all, it puts fear in people. Please let everyone decide for themselves if they want to wear it or not.

comments

I am respectfully asking that the mask bylaw be revoked. I have small children and teenagers and none of them properly wear a mask (and yes I do correct them) this is only further leading to more illness. We hide behind these and ignore basics of hygiene such as hand soap washing and just staying home if you're ill. Also it is an awful thing when your children tell you people look scary because they have masks on.. what are the psychological damages we are

inflicting on our children and teens?? I fear the cure is worse than the disease
Thank you for your time [REDACTED] Thank you for your time

comments

NO EXTENSION ON MASK BYLAW The numbers don't lie. There is no health crisis!! Oct 2019 - Apr 2020 1102 flu cases - with flu vaccine and partial lockdown during the second wave. How many flu cases not confirmed and people staying home with flu? Yet still tested 1102 cases positive!! Covid 19 January 2020 - Sept 2020.... 969 cases!! With Lockdown and now mask mandate!! 64 deaths total and from that 52 in senior care!! Now we have a vote to extend the mask bylaw and the weekend before we see another spike of 14 cases, so what did the masks do then?? They had the same thing with the last time they voted? Who are these 14 people? Why did they come in to get tested? Most people are asymptomatic so with no symptoms you would not get tested? Very odd to see daily numbers between 0-3 daily infections since April 2020 and then see spikes just before you vote on mask mandates? This latest spike is more odd as now we have the mask mandate in place? Who is in ICU with covid19 and who is in the hospital? In Ontario there are only 17 people in the ICU!! Niagara it's 0!! No one in hospital at all!! So how bad is it in Ontario? Simple calculation 45,000 cases in Ontario since January 15 2020, on a population of over 14 million. That means in that time frame of 8 months we have seen 0.32% that was tested positive!! THAT IS IT!! Ontario health admitted that over half of the tests are false positives!! So the numbers are even less!! In 6 months we had more flu cases in Niagara than we have covid 19 cases in 8 months!! When do we stop the nonsense??

https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-ontario-is-responding-covid-19?_ga=2.50637036.414774865.1579999479-1384618845.1579999479
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/statistics/reopening.aspx>

comments

No to Mask mandate extension. You did not listen to the mandating of masks back in July when we spoke out against it. Now there is talk till 2021. How you wish to ruin another year? If you see even with masks we are still at the same place we were back in July with cases only around 1 or 2 a day or even with spikes it seems masks are not working as you once thought. And guess what, as people said if it does get higher it gives people a false security that

everything will be alright. Cause the masks work... right? Well get back to me only if you are actually going to be THINKING about everything LOGICALLY.

comments

Hi, I'm not in favor of the mask by-law being extended. By extending it, you are giving people false security..and we are all hiding behind our masks(good and evil). All that is needed is distance, wash hands, and stay home when sick! Will not support those who support masks!!

comments

Hello, In regards to item 10 on the agenda about masks. Enough is enough. This has gone on for far too long and is completely unnecessary. Stop being sheep. Stop letting non medical persons such as Bill Gates influence decisions on the people of this region, province, and country. Stop making decisions based on numbers that are false. Ask yourself "how is it ok to sit at a table in a restaurant without a mask, but not ok to walk to the table without one?" I guess there might be covid over there but not over here? How utterly ridiculous. "You" want to keep putting restrictions on what I can or cannot do, but you have no problem filling "your" pockets with my tax dollars? Which is why schools are open because you wouldn't be able to justify closing them and keeping the tax payers money. Get some guts and do what you are supposed to do - work for the people, improve lives, better communities- not control, manipulate, force, take freedoms and create fear. Enough is enough. NO MORE MASKS

comments

I would like to voice my concern here about masks. The mandatory masks by-law is causing hatred and division in the public sphere. Medical masks and cloth masks are not proven to be helpful against the transmission of covid-19. If anything, masks cause people to touch their faces more when adjusting their masks and it creates a false sense of security that means they will wash their hands less. Please leave it up to the individual to do their own research and do what they deem best.

comments

I am writing in regards to the mandatory mask by law. I am completely opposed and hope they do not pass this crazy law. Masks do not work but if people feel better wearing them, by all means go ahead but do not make this mandatory. The box itself says they do not prevent against viruses and the fact you can wear one made of anything shows they are useless. It is about control, not health and safety. If it is not about control then why make it mandatory till April and not just visit it month by month or very other month? I am opposed and hope the region votes to leave it up to each person to decide if they want to wear one or not.

comments

Good Afternoon, I am writing to request that you do not extend the mask by law. Current data proves that masks are not effective in stopping the spreads, and some data suggests may even exacerbate the spread due to excessive face touching. Please make masks optional. Many will still continue to use them. Furthermore, it is harming our economy as many are unwilling to shop with them. Please be a leader in Ontario by stopping the unnecessary mandate.

comments

Hello I would like to let you know our disappointment with the decision to force masks on healthy citizens these last months. As this goes to vote again this coming Thursday night, I hope that the council members will use the scientific information that is available to them and rescind this terrible, useless and unenforceable bylaw. Let people live in peace, and stop being ruled by fear. Thank you.

comments

Please dont extend the mask Bylaw. Its ridiculous. If people want to wear one let them. For the rest of us and for the sake of businesses get rid of the Bylaw. Lots of people wont shop or go out to eat because its uncomfortable. Can you honestly say in the name of science that 'till April' is what would be 'good'? You have nothing to base that on. The mask is a social contstruct to try to put peoples mind at ease so they dont freak out, and the more sense of safety and security, as false as this is, the more likely incumbents are to get back in. Many

of us know this already. Myself, my [REDACTED], our [REDACTED] kids dont wear masks, and will not. Long term it is unhealthy. Thanks

comments

Dear council With the next mandatory mask meeting to extend it to April 1, I am asking you to vote no. No for a few reasons: since the 1st vote wasn't based off of science but rather emotional and political agendas I will try to appeal to the emotional side: 1st the mask is causing so much shaming, judging and discrimination. It is downright disgusting and disturbing how people are treating each other over this. The mask is dividing everyone. 2nd, people are being targeted for not wearing a mask, causing them to withdraw from any interaction with society. 3rd, the science isn't there, both 2 Different doctors aren't even consistent on this. 4th, this is political rather than scientific 5th what is the end game? We flattened the curve months ago, is the end to completely change our economy to a complete way of socialism and communism. 6th, take a real good look at statistics, recovery and deaths. It's not okay to quarantine the healthy. 7th, what comes next? Mandatory vaccinations that haven't been proven effective? 8th what about our rights and freedoms? Can you even prove that the spread is from nonmaskers? 9th, people don't even wear them correctly or store them properly, causing a great breeding ground for more bacteria 10th take a look around the world and see the amount of people standing up for their rights and freedoms. Don't you want to be on the right side of history? Or do you want to look back and say you helped successfully take away people's freedoms and rights and help people to treat each other with utter hatred. Take a look at history, why was the Germans able to convince everyone that the Jews were the cause of their problems? Here is the same for the antimaskers. This is getting worse and worse. It's your job to help restore respect and unity not tear it further apart. If federal government believes this to be necessary, then a law would have come out, but they know there is no scientific evidence to base the mask on. Time to see what is really going on. Look with an open mind, do research, not just what the media is telling, dig into the studies from Harvard and Stanford that says masks don't work, or even the cbc. It's time to end this division and bring unity Vote No to the extension

comments

Hi, I respectfully ask that there be no extension to the mask bylaws..the masks give me terrible headaches and claustrophobia. I feel safer when people are

distancing socially, and washing hands more. The masks are giving people a false sense of security, and as a result they are not using proper distancing. Also, so many people are wearing dirty masks, which is even worse than not wearing masks. Please consider those of us who have a very difficult time wearing masks.

comments

I would like my voice to be heard about the mandatory masks. I do not believe that this should be a by-law anymore with so little cases. And people are going to get the flu and yes people are going to die but I don't believe that masks are the answer. We all should have the right to decide whether to wear them or not. Please do not extend the mandatory masks .

comments

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to request that the mandatory mask by-law NOT be extended in the coming weeks. Those that feel more comfortable wearing a mask should be all means do so however it should be the CHOICE of each individual. The science is still debatable on the effectiveness of masks but more than that the by-laws are breeding fear. Fear that is unnecessary based on the stats (particularly in Niagara)- not case numbers but hospitalizations/deaths. The curve is flatten. Our hospitals ARE not overrun at all. Please do NOT extend this by-law. Kind regards.

comments

Hi, I don't believe that masks are necessary all the way to April. The numbers haven't changed that much with masks and to make a law that lasts that long is taking it too far. Please do not make this a bi law! Sincerely, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

comments

Please say no to mandatory mask ! It's making everyone divided on the subject If people wanna wear them fantastic but there are those who don't or who can't And people are being rude to those that can't due to health reasons and people are asking for there medical reasons and this is disgusting and invasion of privacy! People are even being denied basic health care bc they

can't wear mask ! That shouldn't be happening! I wanna see real scientific study on wearing a mask our children shouldn't be used as test rat labs on this. We have been subjected to wearing mask, social distancing, and extremely Extensive Hand disinfectant for 3 months and cases are going up .. maybe it's the mask making people more sick instead of herd immunity or maybe cases are going up bc it's a damn cold And it's cold and flu season upon us and it's Been proven that the elderly and those that already have a complex health issues are more susceptible then regular healthy people!! Healthy people shouldn't be wearing this ! I'm tired of this bs The numbers are not there to justify this ! No more mandatory mask Curious if you were this concerned during Ebola or during the regular flu and cold season since both have killed hundreds of thousands of people, if not do your part and start researching and listening to our doctors who think this is ridiculous

comments

PLEASE make mask wearing optional. I have a medical exemption not to wear one but I am ostracized for it. People need to practice their own hygiene and best self care practices. And those who are vulnerable and can stay home, should. I am a young mom of four. My [REDACTED] is a frontline worker. I am a teacher. We vote for OPTIONAL mask wearing please!

comments

Good afternoon, Now that the curve is long flattened, hospitals are not crowded with covid patients, stats show that the elderly and sick are the ones who are at highest risk of dying from covid, there have been no more deaths in the region lately, testing has been ramped up and only "cases" are being reported, there has not been a spike in hospitalizations since masks became mandatory, and many people are seeing that the science behind mask wearing is not proven to help curb the spread of the virus (assuming it's still making its rounds)...I would like to ask that masks be made optional for the residents of Niagara, and no longer mandatory. Allow people to choose to wear them if they feel it helps anything and to opt out if they feel that it does nothing and is only bothersome or dirty. Especially our children should not have to have their faces covered, knowing that they are in the lowest risk category! We need to spread hope and love to each other, and stop the fear and mistrust that masks

are bringing to our society. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to voice our thoughts.

comments

Currently there are no health departments /officials that suggest masks are necessary or beneficial and the decision to require wearing masks is purely political. Masks arguably do more damage than good and I am strongly against Wearing them. Let those at risk decide for themselves and everyone can function as normal. Please don't mandate mask for the healthy, this is tyranny!

comments

Please rethink this! Mask create a lot of problems for people... there are those who suffered trauma and having to wear a mask re-traumatizes them every time... others have severe claustrophobia and panic attacks are triggered... the affects on children. I could go on and on! Evaluate this virus... not by number of cases but rather it's true affect on people, the amount of deaths that have really occurred, the survival rate etc. In the beginning you (government) cried, "Flatten the curve!" We did that and rules are getting stricter rather than getting mor lax! Masks don't save lives, washing hands and social distancing is far mor effective... PLEASE use your common sense and stop the fear mongering
Thanks for listening

comments

Good day, I am writing this to you to encourage the stopping of mandatory mask wearing by Oct.1st. Please make this optional as we have no hospitalizations or deaths from covid. It is no worse then a Common cold at this point. Extending it to April is absolutely drastic and unnecessary.

comments

Please don't extend the mask bylaw. The numbers going up just show that masks don't change anything. In fact people touch their face more this way because they are always adjusting and putting it off and on. Churches should for sure be exempt because they are only at 30 percent capacity anyway so people are physically distanced.

comments

Please do not extend the bylaw. If masks were working, numbers would be going down. Wearing masks make people careless about distancing and washing hands which has been proven to be most effective.

comments

Hello, I'd like to voice my opinion on mandatory mask wearing, and I do not believe it is effective. I've never seen 1 person wear a mask properly according to protocol (proper sanitizing after the mask being worn is touched). And now with reusable masks, there's more germs on those things because lack of proper hand sanitizing. If people feel safer to wear a mask, let them. We've flattened the curve, We've moved to stage 3, I'm not sure why people want to extend this mandatory mask wearing longer.

comments

Giving that you are going to vote on keeping masks mandatory or not, I'd like you to consider not extending this. I don't find a lot of medical proof that they help. People don't wear them properly, and if we keep physical distance that is a better choice. Thanks.

comments

Please make the wearing of masks optional. For those who think it preventable Covid and feel more comfortable wearing one, that's great. For those who read the scientific evidence and see that wearing masks does more harm than good, in fact does not much more than put fear in people, please DISCONTINUE the mandatory wearing of masks

comments

I respectfully ask that the mandatory masking policy not be extended. The spread of covid is not controlled or lessened by the use of masks, and the side effects (mentally) are many, especially for children

comments

I would like to ask that you do not extend mandatory masks to April. I believe that everyone should be allowed to make conscientious decision in this regard. Across the world Covid numbers show that 99% of all cases are mild. In addition to that we have more than flattened the curve. Death numbers are extremely low or 0. There is also so much improper use of masks that it is worrisome as we enter cold and flu season. If you are to use a mask properly the second you touch it, it is contaminated. People have them hanging around the necks of their children, dangling off their ears, touching them constantly. The science does not support the use of cloth masks either, when it comes to viral infections. We need to start making sense with the precautions we give.

comments

Hello, To whomever this concerns I am respectfully asking that council very carefully considers the serious and often unspoken consequences of the mandatory mask law. I understand people's desire to be safe amidst this pandemic and try to keep loved ones safe. I respect that as well. I have, however, increasingly heard of community members being attacked, yelled at and humiliated for being unable to wear masks. I personally have a very hard time wearing them, I hardly go out and when I do I will wear a mask but am increasingly nervous and anxious when doing so. Our numbers may be increasing but very slightly...and they are increasing regardless of this mask law that is already in place. The coronavirus is a type of flu...numbers are going to increase in colder weather. It is being shown to be the case regardless of whether we wear masks or not. It is councils decision to extend the mask law, please do reconsider the amount of time you intend to do so. The law can always be extended if Council thinks it is necessary. April is too long a time and much can change. I respect that this is a very difficult place to be put in and I thank council for your hard work in trying to keep our community safe. I just ask that you take into consideration the extended damage this may do to other vulnerable members in our communities. Thank you. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

comments

Regarding mask mandates... It is challenging to find evidence during this time, due to censorship issues of ANYTHING going against the mainstream narrative. Many of the articles, and evidence that I had early on in this

"pandemic" have been censored, and removed off the internet. Many doctors have claimed that N95 masks DO NOT prevent a virus, so how is a piece of cloth going to protect you? There have been many peer reviewed studies that claim an N95 mask will NOT protect the wearer against a virus. Rocco Galati is a well known constitutional lawyer in Toronto. He filed a statement of claim on July 6th, 2020, on behalf of Vaccine Choice, doctors, and scientists who are taking the Ontario government, Theresa Tam, Justin Trudeau, Doug Ford, John Tory, and the CBC to court over the "pandemic" measures, including mandatory face masks. Here is the statement of claim. Rocco Galati <https://twitter.com/roccogalatilaw/status/1281217990952960006?s=09> Evidence that masks DO NOT work... Sen. Dr. Scott Jensen https://youtu.be/7_b0AhqvAVw Dr. Robert Young <https://youtu.be/icJln5-6OYg> The CDC <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/cdc-guidelines-say-wearing-a-mask-during-prolonged-exposure-to-coronavirus-wont-prevent-possible-infection> Expert explains why masks DON'T WORK https://youtu.be/-ses_g_j9tk Mask are neither Effective nor Safe <https://www.technocracy.news/masks-are-neither-effective-nor-safe-a-summary-of-the-science/?s=09> Making face masks mandatory is NOT backed by Science or Law <https://www.iccf.ca/making-face-masks-mandatory-is-not-backed-by-science-or-law/?s=09> Wearing masks and forced flu shots. Experts DISAGREE. <https://www.technocracy.news/masks-are-neither-effective-nor-safe-a-summary-of-the-science/> To continue with this mandatory wearing of face masks, is not only unconstitutional, it weakens your immune system, nor conducive to human health, also highly illegal to enforce such a measure. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

comments

Please do NOT make masks mandatory till April. This is too great of a timeline for such a commitment. Our families will suffer more with low immune systems from wearing masks so long ..rather than gaining benefits from them.

comments

Please remove the mask mandate. Masks do nothing to prevent a COVID from spreading and put people in a false sense of security. Let people decide wether or not they wish to wear on. Let's not let the cure be worse than the

disease. Take time to consider all the other facets of society that are suffering due to unnecessary restrictions. Thank you!

comments

Dear Council Members: Please accept this as my opinion to NOT extend the mandatory mask bylaw. I will outline some reasons for your consideration, both based on data and on personal experience. I hope your vote will be based on the facts and not on social peer pressure or pressure from the loudest voices in the public. Policies for the people should not be based on what ifs, because we do not use consult crystal balls for the future. But we do have current facts, as well as past facts with which to use that cannot be refuted as evidence. And the evidence/stats shows this... Niagara has a 25 positive cases or .0055% 1% would equal about 4500 people 25 vs 4500 There are not enough deaths, cases or even positive results to warrant masks being mandatory. Nor a state of emergency for that matter. This is not monumental in nature. And the response of actions all across our cities is not proportionate to the facts. This cannot be argued. This is not to be a mask bylaw for a CASEdemic. It is supposed to be for an emergency in a pandemic. That which we have not met the requirements of. Are you, the Council waiting for zero cases to remove masks from the mandatory protocols? Or following other communities? Or motivated by fears of the people? Similar percentages exist for all of Ontario and all of Canada. It's not just the Niagara Region. We simply do not have an exponential spread of active cases nor deaths. In Niagara Region: 64 people died. None in the past 2-3 months. No children are ill. No children have died. (unlike the case with the regular flu) A Pandemic is partially defined as "affecting a LARGE NUMBER of people" WHAT IS THAT NUMBER FOR THE NIAGARA REGION? Because the current numbers/facts are.... .0055% are currently active/positive That is 25-30 people with positive tests. The hospitals have no patients with Covid. The curve has been flattened for months. 99.8% of all tested are coming up NEGATIVE Those are the facts. The FACT is we have approx. 449, 975 people who are NOT ill and are not carrying a viral load large enough to have symptoms and science says the one who are most likely to infect others are the ones who HAVE symptoms. If we have pre-symptomatic people who do not know they are ill, we should have seen exponential increases in numbers. We did not. No one ever explains how math and statistical analysis works but it works like this...one person infects two people. Those two people infect 2 people each. Those 4 people each infect two people and we have 8 people, then 16 then 32, 64, 128 and so on and so

forth. That's how exponential growth works. We do not have that. We have random number increases due to random testing. A couple of cases every so often. No outbreaks. And if we had missed some positive people, in the exponential chain there would for sure be others who would get sick. We do not have that. We have never done this masking for any flu season. Nor for any other disease, do we insist upon knowing the numbers of who MIGHT become ill by way of probable markers, asymptomatic or not. We should not be making masks mandatory for this winter season just to sooth the fears of the many. Those in fear are unable to make rational decisions. And science factually says they are unable to use their brain critically as they are stuck in a flight or fight mode. So please do not listen solely to the voice of the many who are unable to process further facts to the contrary of their already well developed 6 months of fear and stress. ZERO SENSE You must know at some level not needing any science at all herethat wearing a mask to walk to a table in a restaurant silently (nothing escaping your mouth except calm exhales) to sit down and eat a meal and talk, yell, laugh, sneeze or cough at the table makes ZERO sense to then put the mask back on to walk out of the restaurant. Or going to a gym to "safely" do a yoga class for 45 minutes with 12 other people socially distanced in a closed room breathing in each other's breath but not allowed to stand outside that same yoga classroom in another open space and talk to those same people without a mask at 6 feet apart? Same at grocery stores. We have people afraid to walk by people? For a millisecond???? Kids can go play hockey and spit and sweat during the course of athletic interaction but cannot use the changeroom safely to dress or undress for that event? Adults can go to a restaurant to eat, drink at a booth or table but our children cannot sit together in a classroom? The FACT here is this....FEAR is dictating this crisis. And fear at the beginning was possibly justified for the unknown numbers. Now we have 6 months of data. 6 months of seeing the numbers do not support the predictions. A second wave is not a fact. It is a fear. And one where the people are looking for evidence to support this fear. Adult fears are driving all the current decisions: Businesses fear to make decisions outside the rules for fear of fines, for fear of more loss of business. Fear to stand up for themselves for fear the media spins it negatively. They are already filled with rules and regulations and then got slapped with policing for masks and dealing with those who don't comply, or from customers who don't like to see exempt faces. Their discomfort not their fear is what is rewarded in a mandatory mask by-law. There is compliancy in mask wearing for fear of not following rules in general. Fear of being verbally attacked. But not fear of the virus. That is evident by the gross mishandling

and wearing of mask. That is also evident by this fact...Being honest, If you were in fear of dying or killing a loved one, you would not go out and RISK YOUR LIFE to buy a loaf of bread or to go to a restaurant to be served. You would voluntarily stay home. You see....the fear is actually about not being able to roam freely. ALL people want that. Some are willing and able to wear a mask for that freedom. Others are not. But freedom is still the root of the mask wearing debate on both sides. And finally policy makers likely fear making the tough decision to stand by the facts and work on putting new policies in place to reduce the fear in our region. You have the equal power to do that. Stand by the facts as your defense for the by-law to be lifted. It's the tough vote. But it's the right one for the greater good of our people. The mandatory mask by-law sustains this fear. I would like to see it end as scheduled on October 1st. Trust is earned. And Niagara Region earned it before July 31 based on the evidence. And the numbers going down before masks were mandatory already showed we were listening and responding appropriately. And surely the current numbers show the same. Do the fears of the majority outweigh the critical review of the facts? Good question, your vote will show this answer to this. Everyone who promotes the "we wear a mask to protect others" is saying this unknowingly by their actions: "I accept I must be asymptomatic and I could spread the virus so I'm wearing my mask to protect you from me." This is from the narrative directly. So then....the law says it's totally ok I am out here in public carrying the virus because the masks signifies I do have the virus and it's ok I am a spreader of it without symptoms AS LONG AS I am wearing a masks to protect others. But if one of my loved ones gets sick, it could not be from me the initial spreader, it had to be from the unmasked person who passed me in WalMart last week. People who wear masks are willingly CHOOSING to go out and about unnecessarily BECAUSE they have the by-law on their side. Personal accountability has been passed onto your decision and the by-law. People love to blame others for their behaviours. Personal responsibility used to be a thing to be admired. It's kind of simple to me though...If you are afraid you will get sick, or afraid you will infect others in your family or if you are sick or if you are high risk.....you should not be out there wearing a 50 cent medical mask (mostly incorrectly and touching it constantly) for false security. Dr Hirji has expressed this several times as well. Stay home. Our Region could promote this instead. Call me crazy but if the terrible label of selfish is to be used should it not be on the ones who go out unnecessarily to buy a loaf of bread thinking they ARE a spreader of the virus??? To go to a restaurant for a burger knowing they COULD infect everyone there by walking in without a mask? But they go anyhow because the BYLAW says it's ok? The

media got the selfish attribute on the wrong group of people. (to be clear, I never call anyone selfish despite this mask by-law invoking in people the power to call me that) Beyond the numbers not supporting a spread....I would like to speak personally. People like myself who are exempt, were made victims of our personal private health issues being wide open for viewing by the public. No mask now says I'm breaking the law and I need a medical reason. When it was optional I was just viewed as selfish. But I can handle that misunderstanding by strangers. But now my health is guessed at. What is her problem? It doesn't appear to be physical as I'm in tremendous physical shape at [REDACTED] so it must be mental/psychological. I've been unwillingly put into the spotlight to every single person I see who now can see I have a health issue by means of deduction of no mask on my face. I lost my right to privacy. And trust me it's not a look of empathy and understanding I get...it's one of disdain, anger and zero tolerance. I pretty much have been home exclusively since July 31 when masks became mandatory...unable to go back to my gym where I exercised 4x a week prior to March, unable to support the grocery store of my choice because I must use Instacart, unable to go to my bank and now pay more fees to do online what I once enjoyed doing in person which also included social interaction of spreading my friendly smile to others and unable support local businesses if they operate inside a building. (a tent is ok though?) Remember the society that had the "Back of the bus" regime? Welcome to mask wearing people are the new white supremes demanding that their seat on that bus is more important than mine. I probably am not allowed on public transit now without a mask? I know the airlines have taken this stance. Bigotry and racism is alive and in the form of masks now. I guess we could call it "Maskism" I do not support this. I would hope you would not either. No person should be made to feel less of a citizen based on the colour of their skin or the colour of, or lack of a mask on their face. Visual cues should have no place in judging worthiness of being in public. Nor should a law promote this. The side effects of the Mask bylaw have been this ; it justifies that we no longer have to be kind to one another. For the greater good? I see no good in the social unrest and attacks upon one group against another. Using the law as basis for this on the one side. People are shirking true self responsibility to listen, inquire and evaluate the issues and watch their own choices and contributions to being high risk spreaders by simply stating it's a law. If I do that, I'm clear of any wrong doing. The law says so. Putting on a mask is easy and good enough for most people. People who would rather not take one step in the direction of behaviour and actions or hard work to increase their health level by eating well or exercising etc. Nope a mask is good enough. I'm safe

now. It's not good enough for me. I take FULL responsibility for my health and I take FULL care to not harm another human being ever. A mask law should not dictate if this is factual or not. Thank you for listening. Best of luck at the meeting on Sept 17th. [REDACTED]

comments

Dear regional counselors, I am writing to ask that you do not extend the date for mandatory masks in the Niagara region. As a health care professional who works for the region, I have seen the misuse and abuse of masks. The majority of the public are reusing the disposable masks and I've seen countless littered throughout our region. The cloth masks are not being worn properly and are now being sewn as single layer or mesh material. Instead of being used as a last line of defense, socializing in groups is now widely accepted as long as a mask is worn. Knowing the poor quality of the masks, this now becomes even more of a concern. Please consider encouraging the public to use masks, but please don't mandate it. Those against masks will be complying in a way that is worse than no mask at all. Thank you for your consideration, [REDACTED]

comments

Niagara health has told our school that a mask will not prevent the spread of a cold and the kids are therefore required to stay home from school while they have any symptoms. If a cold VIRUS is not prevented from spreading while wearing masks, the COVID-19 VIRUS will not be prevented either. Mandatory masks are causing stress and anxiety over germs to overwhelm our children with fear. Please say no to mandatory masks.

comments

On Sept 17, the council will come together to discuss the mandatory mask extension, I am asking you to vote in favor of "no" and please listen with an open mind. I'm not even sure where to start. How about with the science? You will find doctors that say yes, they work and no they don't, so who is right? We are supposed to be living in a free country where we can make these decisions on our own. So, if I want to listen to a doctor that says mask don't work, then why is that wrong? I can provide you with links, but I don't think they will do any good. My point is, why is my doctor's opinion wrong and not yours? Lets also take into consideration that mask aren't worn properly, that people are shoving

them in their pockets, purses and dirty car seats, just a breeding ground for more bacteria. Take a moment today and look around, p before you go into a store, people are wearing them not because they agree but because you passed a bylaw- this is evident when they pull out the mask quickly before they go into a store and remove immediately. People are touching their faces more and that is something we need to stop. Im am curoius to know how many of these "new" cases are the people who where wearing maks and how many cases are from not wearing a mask? Lets also look at the amount of discrimination, shaming and judging that a nonmasker is receiving.. its horrible, degrading and down right disgusting. I thought we would be above all that, but when people have listened to lies for so long, they tend to not treat people with the compassion and respect that everyone deserves. The anxiety that a nonmasker feels going into a store is so high, that it is uncomfortable and nerve racking. I would rather cancel important meetings and appointments just not to face the shaming and have to state the reason that I am exempt. This isn't a nice comparison, but a true one. We all wondered and said how could the Germans treat the Jews like that, well this is what is happening now. People view antimasker as conspiracy theorist or that they are spreading the virus and that they have no respect for anyone else. No wonder how the Germans turned a blind eye to the killing of Jews since they had been taught that the Jews were the cause of all their problems. Does it not concern you that they are building facilities that can force people into quarantine? Does it not concern you the treatment that is being given to a person who can't wear a mask? Just look at what is happening in Australia, even you can't deny the severe actions that are happening, and you have the power to stop this and help. Let's be on the right side of history, stand strong and fight against this. This is dividing everyone. I am asking for help, say no, this is not the way. Dig deeper and see what is happening. Look at real statistics and see that we are being played. Yes, this virus is around, but these measures don't warrant the extreme measures in place. If we don't say no to the mask, how are we going to be allowed to say no to a vaccine? (no, I am not anti-vaccines, but I am anti-vaccine that is being rushed and not properly studied and using aborted babies) The choice should be ours and do what is best for our family. Please stop dividing us and take the right approach. I'm appealing to your compassionate, logical side and not your political side. Please say NO to mandatory Masks Respectfully concerned citizens, [REDACTED]

comments

Please do not extend the mask wearing by law. If we social distance already then we don't need to mask up as well. Besides that there is no proof that they help, and are making a huge mess around town and in the ditches, which creates more issues.

comments

please do not extend this ridiculous mask wearing. We really believe it does more damage to our bodies than us not wearing it. We both only wear them going into stores. Canada must WAKE up and see that this is leading us to a slow murdering of us all. STOP WEARING THE MASKS

comments

Please put an end to the mask wearing. It is causing a sense of false security and more problems than help. This has to stop. Hand washing and staying home when sick should be the top priority. This is all people can talk about and it needs to stop.

comments

Good afternoon Please do not extend mandatory masks until April 2021. Yes there are more cases and maybe masks are helping keep the cases lower But there is no proof of that. But should this not be something looked at a couple months at a time? A 7 month extension is extreme. We need herd immunity in order for us to move forward. The vast majority of cases are mild at best. There are virtually no cases in Niagara. And the number of cases are going to rise as more people are tested. This is not raising the number of cases in hospitals. We have long flattened the curve and the hospitals were never overwhelmed. With most temporary covid treatment centres not even used. Please reconsider not extending mandatory masks. Those who want to wear masks can continue to do so. Thank you [REDACTED]

comments

Good afternoon, I have never before written to the region or town council, but I feel like I need to voice my concerns on this issue. The mask by-law should absolutely not be extended for 7 months! This decision was not based on facts

from the medical professionals, but pressure from other regions who had recently adopted it also. It has more to do with the fear mongering by mainstream media than actual scientific facts. Masks are not worn properly, disposed of properly, and a homemade piece of cloth will not stop the spread of any virus. People have a false sense of security while they are wearing one, and cases are increasing after this was mandated, so how is it stopping any spread? There are so few cases in our region as it is, and this by-law has no warrant to be prolonged for such a long time. Cold and flu season is coming, and people's immune systems need to be strong in order to fight against regular seasonal viruses we have every year, especially our children. People should be allowed to choose whether or not they wear one, not be forced by the government. I urge you to base your decision on advice from medical professionals instead of public opinion, and consider whether the risks of a recoverable illness outweigh the economic repercussions and mental health issues our region is facing. People are living with painful medical conditions that could be fixed with elective surgeries, cancer screenings are postponed, mental health crises, etc; and all to prevent an overcrowding of hospitals that never even happened! It's time to move forward and get back to regular our lives. Perhaps decisions about how to help small businesses stay afloat and how restaurants are going to be able to stay open at 30% of their income is a better discussion to be had and leave medical decisions to those who are in that field. I hope you will seriously consider how these decisions affect people, their jobs, their mental health and their quality of life before mandating a by-law that doesn't actually prevent a sickness. Thanks for allowing people to submit their views on this issue, [REDACTED]

comments

I would love to see the mask mandatory by law be taken away. Please vote no. Nothing of this so called pandemic makes sense, Please say no

comments

Please allow masks to be obligatory. If someone feels safe with one, they wear one. If someone doesn't feel it necessary, they don't have to wear one. Also, please make church an exception for masks. We cannot worship and sing our praise to our Lord and Saviour while masked. We already sit 6 feet apart respectably, we don't need masks. Thank you for considering.

comments

Hello. I'm opposed to the renewal of the mask by-law. I believe people should have a choice in what they put on there body especially when it effects there health. I also believe that making children mask up is child abuse. Many people are unaware that the by-law has exemptions and it can cause unnecessary havoc while you go about your business. We're protected by our Charter of Human rights. The right to freedom, life and Liberty. The right to be equal and not to be discriminated. I strongly believe that this by-law has brought out the worst in people. I had trouble going into my local Superstore just because customers were asking and complaining why there were mask less shoppers. We don't need anything to be mandated. We the people should make that decision for ourselves. Vote No to the extension of the mask by-law. Thank you for reading, I hope this makes a difference.

comments

There is a vote coming up at the Region extending mandatory wearing of face masks until April. I wish to let you know that I am opposed to any extension of this order. I believe every individual should have the ability to choose to wear or not wear a face covering. social distancing continues to be required and as such masks then should not be mandatory

comments

Hello, as a registered practical nurse I ask you to please NOT extend the Mandatory mask bylaw till April 1st! I see so many people wearing them incorrectly, touching them and discarding the social distancing because of the masks and believe we will be better off if we stay home while sick and wash our hands.

comments

Hello I am sending you this to ask if you can rethink the mask policy in the schools.it is doing more harm than good. My kids come home with headaches all the time and their anxiety is increasing. It is high time that things go back to normal. There is no pandemic. Children especially have such a low chance of ever getting covid. What is the point of this besides increasing children's anxiety and making them depressed. masks do very little,actually they make it worse because kids r always pulling their masks down and touching their face.

There is no logic to this madness. I really appreciate it if this could not be necessary anymore. Thank you for reading this. [REDACTED]

comments

Hi! I'm writing to let you know that masks should NOT mandatory. I know of someone who can't wear one due to a medical condition and now can't go places due to businesses refusing services to them. People who can't wear masks should not be punished for having a medical condition. If someone wants to wear one- please do. If someone cant/doesn't want to wear one- don't wear one. It should be up to every individual whether they want to wear one or not.

comments

Masks should not be mandatory. Most people should have common sense to decide whether they would need to wear one. Masks are bad for people's lungs. People are falling faster because of not being able to see well. This is a free country.

comments

To the Regional Council of Niagara, The purpose of this letter is to ask that you please let the mask bylaw expire. I ask that you do not vote for the bylaw to be extended to April. Prayers for much wisdom to do what is right at this time. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

comments

I am opposed to extending the mask bylaw! It is not necessary and I cannot wear one!

comments

The message is to ask that you reconsider the mask bylaw that you are considering renewing soon. The Region of Niagara has not been plagued by the virus, and recently the uptick in new cases have not caused an increase in hospitalization or deaths (in the areas that they are occurring). The medical

officer of health did not deem masks necessary when the by-law was enacted, so it seems purely a political move to me. Also, there seemed to be a serious lack of actual debate on this law when the previous vote took place, which is a shame in a democracy. I also would ask that if the bylaw doesn't get renewed that an exemption be made for churches which are currently at 30% capacity and can very easily (and have) be socially distanced enough to not need a mask. Wearing a mask takes away from our worship services and should not be required. Please vote against the extension of this law. It seems to be nothing more than virtue signalling, as the by-law is completely unenforceable, and (in my view) unnecessary.

comments

To whom it may concern, I am writing to you to voice my concern over the possibility of mask wearing in Niagara until April. Here are a few links to recent articles about the dangers of prolonged mask wearing:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/973/made?view=plain>
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/973/made?view=plain> Most masks are not worn properly or dispensed of properly. Masks retain moisture, which can increase infection. Studies also found that mask wearing for prolonged periods also result in headaches, increased airway resistance, carbon dioxide accumulation, hypoxia and even other life threatening complications. Masks provide a false sense of security. Covid is not going anywhere, it needs to run its course. Please do not weaken our immune systems for the sake of mask wearing. Please vote no. Thank you, [REDACTED]

comments

Please do not extend the bylaw until April 1st. This virus has a very high survival rate and the amount of control the government is implementing is very concerning.

comments

I cannot believe that it is even thought about to continue with masks till April 1st! Where is the proof that this is what we need to be doing. There is an increase in the numbers with MOST people wearing masks. Does that not show that having a mask on is not really doing what it is supposed to do. I myself have issues, so for me wearing masks is not possible. I believe that you

don't have a right to keep forcing people to wear a mask. Please look at ALL opinions and come to the right decision that mask wearing should no longer be necessary!!

comments

I dont think wearing masks is nessicary it does more harm then good for everyone medically very unhealthy

comments

I am 100% against this as is the majority of my community. The numbers do not add up!!!!!!!!!!!! Not to warrant this draconian type mandate. We will not sit by and have our liberties taken away over something this blantly non existent. None of this makes sense. My body my choice. The facts are clear. .this is NOT a PANDEMIC AT ALL. NOT HAVING IT SORRY

comments

I do not think we should extend it to April 1. Personally I don't think the mask thing is making any difference, and ur should of been done in the very beginning if they are so worried about the spread of germs. Maybe they should think more of the unborn who are killed and the seniors who are dying of loneliness in long term care facilities. Flues are going to happen. Stop falling for all the political nonsense that has caused this country to go " dumb"

comments

Greetings, I am writing to you in response to hearing the news of the possibility for extending the date of mandated masks to next year. I have been very dissatisfied lately, if the effects of this virus is not enough with the financial, social, and economic disruptions, than with the ridiculous by-law forcing people to wear masks. I have a very hard time accepting the blunt force of the law in forcing a measure that is not even proven to be an effective measure to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I strongly feel that I should be able to make the decision if I feel my health is compromised, or have been exposed to an infected individual, that I would have the common decency to take the proper precautions to avoid further contact. A lot of this is common sense (which I do admit many people do not have), but the awareness is there, forcing people to

wear masks has not been a proven method in the prevention, rather it has done more damage emotionally than good in my life. The masks make people feel safe - a blatant false sense of security. If you want people to feel safe than maybe enforce a by-law that prohibits fear mongering. People need to be encouraged, and built up, not forced to do something for non-valid reasons. If masks are to be mandatory in public spaces, my secondary request is that private facilities such as churches do not fall under the by-law since donning a mask during a God ordained worship service to which we are called twice a Sunday is very distracting, and disrespectful to God. Forcing people to wear masks in a private church building is also to me a very disturbing example of the blunt force of the law used in a counter productive manner. We do use common sense where if one feels ill, they do not go but can watch a live-stream. For my sanity, and for the sanity of so many out there who are getting extremely depressed, frustrated, and upset with this by-law enforcing something that is not even an effective measure to prevent the spread, I would ask for some decency in giving the benefit of the doubt to the citizens of the Niagara Region who should be allowed to decide for ourselves if or when a mask or other measures are necessary to help the common good of our neighbours. Thank-you.

comments

Please vote against mandatory mask wearing! Please please please for the sake of our freedom and rights do not make mask wearing mandatory.

comments

I am writing to ask you to please not extend the mask by law. Facts have proven that this virus is not as bad as the experts first thought! Also since mask wearing our numbers have actually gone up. People have too much confidence in the mask and they no longer social distance. Or they do not know how to wear one and touch their face constantly. It is also taking away basic human rights from us. Not very many people even want to wear the mask!! The virus has a 99% survival rate! Let's get on with our lives as normal please!!

comments

Regarding the mask by law I would like to suggest that it should no be

extended. My experience in the past couple of months is that it has actually emboldened most people to not physically distance when in public. I found people were more careful when not wearing masks and much more aware of those around them. As a free person in a free country I would suggest an end to the by law so that we can be treated as responsible adults. This has created more division than necessary and it is time to end the useless wearing of masks with people wearing improperly, touching too often, wearing of dirty masks etc. This list is long and we are all well aware of it. Plus I would love to see the science people are talking about. Have you been given this info. Maybe provide it in the local news if you have!

comments

I think April 1st is a bit long for masks. There has to be a end sometime, and I think masks don't help as much as people think. Everyone (myself include) are always touching them and moving them so your always touching your face I would be very happy with no masks at all

comments

Regional Clerk, The mandatory mask requirement must be put to an end. The numbers are going down and the masks are no longer a necessity. Let us get back to normal. Thank you for your time. Ashley

comments

"Medical experts continue to encourage the use of face coverings when physical distancing isn't possible." If physical distancing is possible, then why are masks mandatory? So which comes first in priority: physical distancing or masks? If I wear a mask, then physical distancing isn't necessary? If I am physical distancing, then masks aren't necessary? That encouragement from medical experts does not say we need to do both. It seems that of physical distancing and mask-wearing, only one of these things is policed. Why? And why should mask-wearing be mandated whether or not physical distancing is a factor?

comments

I urge you not to extend mask wearing. The number of cases and deaths are

very low in our area. Most deaths were a result of poor quality of living in nursing homes(something has gone on for years but now was noticed by Canadians).because of masks more people shop on line Instead of visiting a business. This will just cause more businesses to close it go bankrupt. It's a nightmare for students who need see them teachers' lips and facial expressions in order to speak, read, etc. Communication among people diminishes and one is unable to recognize other community members. In addition, since many people lip read, it becomes more difficult to hear others. I believe this is detrimental to our community. And if we go back a few months, we will recall how all medical people believed that masks would do more harm than good. What changed? They did. Every day they come out with some new theory. I greatly fear that our freedoms are being erased one at a time. An 87 year old lady who uses no social media told me that this reminded her of WW2. She said they took one freedom away at a time so there were no freedoms left until they were freed from the Nazi rule. Let's beware of where this is going. Please remove masks. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

comments

The mask bylaw is seriously negatively affecting my mental health and anxiety. How? It gives me great anxiety wearing one; people around me are behaving inhumanely toward me when I'm struggling and having a hard time with wearing a mask; my stress stresses others; others' stress stresses me.

(Inhumanely is defined as: without compassion for misery or suffering; cruel)

The situation is so bad to the point where I don't want to enter any public building anymore; and I'm already putting off doing so as much as possible! For health reasons, I please ask that you repeal the mask bylaw so that I may safely and sanely participate in activities in society again. And in return, I will, as needed, keep a distance of GREATER than two metres between myself and the public! The mask bylaw has resulted in some people believing that it's a problem if someone isn't wearing a mask even if the person always remains a greater-than-two-metres distance from everyone else at all times. I know this because I have seen it. On Sept 10, a message from Niagara Region Public Health stated: "In Niagara, someone dies by suicide approximately every 9 days. Suicide prevention in our community is everyone's responsibility. Take a minute to ask someone if they're OK."

<https://twitter.com/NRPublicHealth/status/1304057651320545281> I want you to know that the mask bylaw does affect mental health and suicide risk! Since suicide-prevention in our community is everyone's responsibility—including

mine and yours—please consider your responsibility and role in what you are doing. Please repeal the mask bylaw.

comments

Please stop with this ridiculous mandatory masks nonsense leave it at freedom of choice. Those who feel they need it can have it and those who feel it's not effective can go about their business and no one has to be the enforcer. Masks at this point is like putting the cart before the horse. We flattened the curve a long time ago. Not to mention mandating this is illegal. I have the documentation to prove it. The silent majority are waking up. Don't make us get angry. We are civil and law abiding now. Please don't turn us into rebellious people. Because it will happen. There are millions of people just like me. We have been complicit up till now. But I'm telling you we are reaching our limits. Let people get on with their lives Or you will have more then you can handle on your hands. Thanks for your time respectfully [REDACTED].

comments

In the best interest of our children, both physically and mentally, the mask bylaw needs to be done. Children are growing up with a fear that is unknown to any generation. It is war on their psych (as children who grow up with soldiers and guns on their streets). These children need a healthy perspective on all aspects of life. Physically? If we keep people masks, no germs and bugs will enter our systems and when the masks eventually come off there will a surge of viral and bacterial infections we have never seen before.....causing our health care system to explode. The idea was to flatten the curve. That has been done. Please, please, please do not extend the masking. Let those who are vulnerable and concerned have their extra hours if quiet shopping. Give the rest of the population their human rights and dignity back to think as responsible adults. This is beyond government power. Thank you.

comments

Please make it known to Council that many people in the Niagara region do not think wearing masks should be mandatory! Thank You.

comments

Please do not continue the mandatory mask bi law. The anxiety and fear and anger it has caused between families and in the communities is very sad. Since this bi law came into effect if masks were the answer should the # have not gone to 0 and stayed there. We need to start living life normally again. Thank you

comments

To whom it may concern, We are writing you today to oppose the proposal to extend the mask bylaw. We are so over the controlling and overreach through these masks. They are not even proven to be effective and yet anytime we are in public we now have to have our faces covered. If they were effective we should be seeing a steady drop in cases since they've been mandatory for a while now. The focus is so much on cases, but really what's the big deal with that? If we were having 300+ hospitalizations in a day that's when we should be concerned. But we're not...only cases, of which very few even end up in hospital. Why are we living in so much fear of a virus with such a high recovery rate? Yes there are those who are more at risk in regards to the virus, and they should be given proper care and attention. But let the rest of us go on with our lives! There are so many other horrid consequences happening from all this insanity. We need to behave like humans again! Showing love and compassion to one another, not treating each other like we are all diseased and infectious. We have been brainwashed to think that wearing a mask means we care for others, and not wearing one means we are selfish. This is outrageous! If anyone feels more comfortable in a mask, by all means, let them wear one. But it should remain a choice. It's not the governments duty to dictate the "health" of the population. Let us look after our own affairs. Thanks for your consideration in this matter. [REDACTED]

comments

Hello, With all due respect, the requirement of wearing a mask in public spaces seems to be a political statement rather than a medical necessity. In the early days of COVID-19, there may have been a place for this precaution, but since we have flattened, or should I say crushed, the curve, wearing a mask has no positive meaningful effect. Although the reported number of cases has increased, the hospitalization and death counts have not increased at all, particularly in the Niagara region. Certainly we know by now that this is not a

particularly deadly disease to most healthy people and therefore restrictions should not be put on healthy people. Using good common sense would say that you protect the vulnerable by taking reasonable and necessary precautions, similar to what you would do if you had symptoms of the flu or common cold. I feel that the decision to implement a mask bylaw in the first place was a succumbing to political pressure rather than looking objectively at the medical evidence and scientific numbers. Please seriously reconsider whether a mask is really necessary and all the potential negative side effects. People are social creatures and we need to be able to see peoples faces to have a meaningful conversation. Emotions are being blocked. Please allow us to make our own choices and decisions regarding our health. Thank you for your consideration. [REDACTED]

comments

First I want to thank Regional council for the work that you are doing during these unprecedented times. I understand that a discussion point on the agenda , will be whether or not to extend the mask bylaw. I respectfully request that you don't make it mandatory but give people the option to wear it or not. Wish you wisdom in your deliberations. Best Regards John Werkman

comments

I'm writing in regards to the upcoming meeting where the mask bylaw will be amended. I'm very opposed to such unnecessary measures. Seeing as numbers are slowly rising in our area, despite the requirements (that I see are largely followed) of wearing a mask it proves this is a unnecessary measure. Social distancing has become far more lax and that is the reason for the new uptake in cases (cases, not deaths, mind you). The medical health Dr never asked for this requirement, you decided to force this on us despite the unsettled science. Now you want to extend it for another 6 months? Deciding to extend this to April is pure lunacy. Or perhaps you threw that date out there to make us oh so thankful it's actually only extended 2 months. Why you waste time and tax dollars on an unenforceable bylaw is hard to comprehend. If you had cold hard facts behind this decision it wouldn't be a bylaw but a law straight from the provincial/federal level. You are creating division among the people of Niagara and pitting neighbour against neighbour. You should have left well enough alone, and I ask that you let the rest of council know that you will be creating much disruption in your region if you go forward with this. I'm

disappointed in the lot of you (Regional Council). There is a silent majority that is becoming less silent. I'm ask you to not extend the bylaw beyond its current end date.

comments

I am writing in regards to the mask by-law extention and want to let my councilors know that I'm 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

seriously moving the by law until 7 mnths when you do know what the future hold is not a good idea...month by month. Same way everything else has been done thru COVID. By extending it that far out...will have people losing there minds.

comments

As a citizen of Lincoln and an actively working Registered Nurse [REDACTED], I request that the mask extension bylaw NOT be extended until April. Our goal was to flatten the curve so as to not overwhelm the hospitals, which we did an excellent job of prior to mandatory masking. I believe we can continue to keep the curve flattened without a 6 month mandatory mask extension. I also believe we need to re-evaluate what our goal is here - realistically COVID-19 will not be eradicated, and we cannot continue with such tight restrictions indefinitely. Our overall health in Niagara has been negatively affected by lockdown and restrictions, especially when primary care physicians and outpatient services continue to have reduced services - something I see daily in caring for the general public.

comments

As a teenager, I ask you to please stop the mandatory masks! The masks are ineffective and causes more damage than good (Mentally).

comments

Masks should never be mandatory because some people like myself believe it does more harm than good to your lungs. After all it's my body and no one has the right to tell me what i can or can not do with my own body. Besides i cannot wear one for i have health issues. So please NO MANDATORY MASKS !

comments

Please discontinue mandatory masking in our region.Allow us as responsible citizens to make our own discerning decisions to wear or not to wear a mask. There is enough evidence to show masks are not healthy. Wearing masks makes it difficult to communicate with one another. People need to see one another's faces for encouragement, etc. We are not created to live behind a mask.

comments

Hi- this is a message from a constituent in [REDACTED]. We are a family of 7, 5 kids [REDACTED]. We are hoping and praying that common sense will prevail and that the mandatory mask ruling will not be extended. When Covid began to spread, we were told masks will do nothing to help. We were told to Slow The Spread, to Flatten The Curve. We did that... for weeks on end. I had to close my business and my kids missed months of school and many important events. Now we are being told that masks are mandatory- the same masks that weren't gold enough before, the same masks that wouldn't protect us (so we had to be locked in our homes). The masks must go! They are proven not to protect anyone against Covid-19. Please vote against extending mandatory masks. It just doesn't make sense.

comments

Please vote no to the masks. Look at countries that don't mandate them and compare results...they do more harm than good Thanks

comments

Good evening, We would like to let you know our thoughts on the mask bylaw. Evidence has shown that masks have not been effective in preventing Covid. Not only do people not understand how to properly use them, but they do not stop infection from spreading. As a nurse, I have seen endless number of times how people are touching their faces and masks repeatedly, completely defeating the point of wearing a mask. Covid does not have a high mortality rate and is just like any other virus. Masks are pointless. If people feel like wearing a mask, they can. But don't force it on everyone. Thanks for your consideration.

comments

Thank you for your service and desire to serve. I'm writing to ask you to not extend the mask by law. The masks are causing further health risks and complications. Most importantly is the damage to our mental and psychological health, due to the mask by law. I return from grocery shopping dizzy, head aching and in tears from wearing a mask for an hour. Our human connection is being lost and is decreasing our resilience. We need connection, even if it is just a smile from a stranger. Please don't ignore the needs of those struggling with mental health issues. The bylaw is exacerbating these issues. Please do not extend the mask bylaw. Again, thank you for your service and may God give you wisdom as you seek to lead your constituents in this complicating time.

comments

Please don't extend the bylaw. There are no studies proving they work and I believe it's actually making things worse because we touch our faces so much more. Drop the mandatory and if ppl feel they want to then they can.

comments

I humbly suggest that we not renew the mask by law. There has still not been enough medical or scientific proof that masks even help. In fact, there are plenty medical documents about how masks cause health issues. Furthermore, over and over again we see that the deaths caused by Covid 19 are no greater then those caused by the common flu. Are we considering making masks mandatory every flu season? My suggestion is that it is the job

of health and other leaders to make recommendations only. Individual rights and freedoms must not be taken away so quickly.

comments

Please discontinue the mandatory mask bylaw. We will never eradicate this virus, so we must learn to live with it and build up immunity. I am all for responsible hand washing etc. Dont further handicap us and our children. Too many people live in fear and have lost their drive and personality.

comments

I am alarmed at reading the Niagara Region might be extending the wearing of masks until April 2021. I sincerely hope that this not happening.

comments

To whom it may concern, Please do not extend the mask wearing bi-laws for longer than neccesary. It would be nice to have the freedom to go maskless!!
Thanks [REDACTED]

comments

As Dr. Mustafa Hirji has correctly indicated in a number of published interviews, the only scientifically proven (i.e., employing the scientific method and accepted clinical trials, resulting in usable data) methods for mitigating an outbreak is washing hands and maintaining social distance when possible. In contrast, the only actual scientific studies (i.e., Randomized Controlled Trials) on a virus the size of Covid-19 show the wearing of masks, especially less than N95, to be ineffective. Why are we not following evidence-based medicine (a term coined at nearby McMaster)? The lead doctors of our Dutch and Swedish counterparts have pointed out that mask mandates may well have the deleterious effect of encouraging behaviour that counters the intended safety results, such as not paying attention to the proper social distancing. In other words, masks are a dangerous placebo! Moreover, the rules for wearing them are often less than coherent. For instance, why are lifeguards at the Kiwanis pool in St. Catharines required to wear them in the pool area on the deck but not in the chairs? Where is the logic in this? In fact, any masks in this context is hard to justify. Beside the presence of a great

deal of chlorine and a wonderful ventilation system, masks could arguably interfere with actual water safety responses. For three months, doctors worldwide explained why general mask wearing was not necessary for a virus the size of Covid-19. The evidence has not changed, even though some studies are attempting to prove the contrary (and are thus questionably biased from the start). Even if the leadership at the provincial and federal levels has chosen to flip-flop, we can lead more intelligently at the regional level. Remove the mask by-law and simply reinforce public education on hygiene and distancing practices! Let's have Niagara stand apart as the rationale region that stands firm on evidence, not panic-based social conforming and groupthink.

comments

To whom it may concern, I am sending this message in regards to extending mandatory mask wearing in public places until April 1st 2021. Please consider the low amount of cases we have here in Niagara when voting as well as how mandatory masking is creating more problems than it is preventing. Masks are not preventing the spread of disease, but they are spreading fear. Kind Regards during this difficult time, [REDACTED]

comments

I wanted to email you about the vote for extending mandatory masks. I am very opposed to the extension for masks it is completely ridiculous. There are so many Niagara residents that oppose this. Hopefully more begin to dig deeper and do a little due diligence to realize the scam that's going on. If this vote goes through there will be many upset residents who will not stand for this.

comments

I wanted to email you about the vote for extending mandatory masks. I am very opposed to the extension for masks it is completely ridiculous. There are so many Niagara residents that oppose this. Hopefully more begin to dig deeper and do a little due diligence to realize the scam that's going on. If this vote goes through there will be many upset residents who will not stand for this.

comments

I think it's nonsense to wear masks, as they don't prove anything. The amount of filtering they do doesn't cut it. It's just a hype.

comments

Hello! I would like to encourage you to vote AGAINST extending the mask by-law!! Masks have been mandated for about 2 months, starting when covid cases were decreasing. 2 months of masks and cases are increasing!! Additionally the kids wearing masks on buses/ in school typically only have 1 mask per day meaning they are handling it multiple times a day, putting on and taking off. This only increases infection/ bacteria that they are breathing in!! Kids being kids means they don't do all the extra hand washing between taking it off and putting it on and they also are touching it and their face more to adjust or put mask on. The mask by-law started for when it was hard to keep 2m distance, but now we have masks, 2m distances, limited social gatherings. If you still keep the mask by-law then the distancing shouldn't matter as much, right? Lastly, please consider the impact masks and distancing have on the mental health of our children!!! This will only get worse. Thank you for reading this.

comments

No, the mask bylaw should not be extended. I know you will scarcely read this and certainly will not take into consideration what I have to say. I know the majority of the people in our region vehemently disagree with me, as they have been persuaded into believing the health benefits of covering one's mouth and nose with fabric. But I will share this anyways. By coercing people into wearing masks, all that is being accomplished is spreading irrational fear, depression, and hatred among people towards other and for others. The average survival rate with Covid is over 99%, however the suicide rate in southern Ontario has gone up by 1400%. You will not convince me that masks are for the good of the people. I'm not even sure how you have convinced yourselves of it. At this point, I can say that I am ashamed of the government and so called leaders of our country, province, and city. This is about politics and saving face. You do not care about the well being, safety, and health of the people. Period.

comments

I would like to make sure that my voice is added to the list of those who are against an extension of the mandatory mask mandate until April. The St. Catharines Standard article recently written about this upcoming Niagara Region meeting made it sound like there is only a small group of conspiracy theory-type people who are against the mask mandate. I know that this is not true. I know many people who are not in agreement, many intelligent, thoughtful, educated people who believe that decisions are not being made based on logic or current data, rather on fear and misleading headlines and statistics. Because we do not yet know what the 'second wave' will be like, it seems reasonable to me that the mask mandate could be extended a month at a time. But there should also be more room for reasonable exemptions (ie if people are sitting in church, socially distanced and not talking during or in any similar situation — Dr. Hirji was not for a mask mandate and even after the region imposed one, has continued to say that masks are not necessary where social distancing is possible.) Extending the mask mandate until April is an unnecessarily overly reactive move that is not based on constant analysis and interpretation of current data. What is the exit strategy here and on what criteria are decisions being made? This is a very important question for regional council to answer. Thank you,

██████████

comments

I certainly hope that wisdom prevails at the next meeting. I am a very concerned citizen of Lincoln and would like to see this unhealthy masking by-law stopped. My son ██████████ tells me that his testing apparatus he must have in his face shield (for welding) was tested on a regular mask (one which we are told to wear) and the alarm goes off and would be deemed unsafe for him to work in if this was his welding helmet. He would have to leave his work area and remove his helmet if the carbon dioxide levels were as high as they registered in the standard face mask. You are harming and potentially killing your citizens/children and if it comes to it, lawsuits could end up reversing your hard stand on this bylaw. The numbers of deaths do NOT justify this bylaw. A virus that is 99.74 % recoverable should not mandate these measures . I ask that your by-law be reversed and show true leadership in this regard

comments

I would like to respectfully register my request that the Region vote NOT to extend the mandatory mask Bylaw. Should you decide to extend it please include an exemption for places of worship where social distancing is being enforced. It's becoming divisive which is detrimental to the health and spiritual well being of people. Haldimand has this in place and it helps keep the peace. Thank you. We continue to keep all governing bodies in our prayers.