



The Corporation of Town of New Tecumseth

Public Face Covering Policy

Policy Type: Corporate

Policy No.: CAO-POL-001-2020

Name of Dept: CAO

Resolution No.: 2020-151

1. **Policy Statement**

The Town of New Tecumseth (“the Town”), is committed to the health and wellbeing of the public and its employees and remains vigilant in the fight against COVID-19. In compliance with the instructions issued on July 7, 2020 by the Medical Officer of Health at Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (“SMDHU”), the Town will require the use of face coverings for all persons entering or remaining in the indoor public spaces of the Town and public transit vehicles. These instructions were made under the authority of the provincial Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (“EMCPA”), R.S.O. 1990, c. E.9 as well as section 11 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25 both as amended. This is effective 12:01 a.m. July 13, 2020 and will continue until such time as Council repeals the by-law with regards to face coverings.

2. **Purpose**

As commented by the SMDHU there is emerging evidence, primarily based on ecological studies and modelling, suggesting that COVID-19 transmission rates can be reduced with a high level of population compliance of face covering/non-medical mask use in conjunction with physical distancing, hand sanitation, self-isolation and testing when ill. For this reason, we are requiring the use of face coverings for public interactions.

3. **Scope**

This policy applies to Council, Visitors, Contractors, Employees, Volunteers and Patrons. It includes all indoor areas within Town owned properties and facilities that are open or accessible to the public including but not limited to Administration & Joint Operation spaces, Libraries, Museums and Recreation Centers. This policy does not apply to indoor areas of the buildings used exclusively by employees.

4. **Definitions**

Face Covering: means a medical mask or a non-medical mask or other face covering such as a bandana, scarf, cloth, hijab, niqab that covers the nose, mouth and chin that provides a barrier that limits community transmission. Face Shields are not an acceptable alternative to a face covering.

5. **Policy**

The Town will require the use of face coverings for all persons entering or remaining in the indoor public spaces of the Town or public transit vehicles. The covering must be worn at all times, unless it is reasonably required to be temporarily removed to receive services provided by the town. This protocol is to be used in conjuncture with other health measures such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, practicing cough etiquette, screening practices and staying home when sick. Enforcement shall commence with an educational and supportive approach however removal from the premises and or fines are enforceable.

6. **Implementation**

This policy is effective July 13, 2020 12:01 a.m. and will continue until such time as Council repeals the by-law with regards to face coverings.

A person shall be exempt from wearing a face covering if:

- a. The person is a child under the age of two years; or is a child under the age of five years either chronologically or developmentally and he or she refuses to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver;
- b. The person is incapacitated and unable to remove their face covering without assistance;
- c. Wearing a face covering would inhibit the person's ability to breathe such as, but not limited to, during moderate to intense physical activity (such as running) or activity that would preclude its use (such as swimming);
- d. For any other medical reason, the person cannot safely wear a face covering such as, but not limited to, respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties or difficulties in hearing or processing information;
- e. For any religious reason, the person cannot wear a face covering.

Employees may be exempt from wearing a face covering only if there are sufficient barriers consisting of solid surfaces such a glass or Plexiglas between the employee and member of the public. If potential exposure is considered, then masks should be worn.

The use of face masks should be supplemented by making alcohol-based hand sanitizer available at all entrances and exits of the buildings.

Should the public not have a face covering available the Town will provide a

disposable non-medical mask for their use.

Approved By:
Blaine Parkin, P. Eng., CAO

Department:
CAO

Status:
Approved - 08 Jul 2020