



Municipality of
Dutton Dunwich

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Heather Bouw, Clerk

DATE: August 6, 2020

SUBJECT: Mandatory Face Covering By-law (COVID-19 Pandemic)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the August 6, 2020 report titled Mandatory Face Covering By-law (COVID-19 Pandemic), submitted by the Clerk be received and filed for information; and

THAT By-law #2020-52, being a by-law to temporarily require the use of face coverings and related health protection measures within enclosed public spaces within the boundaries of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich during the declared COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, in support of the Letter of Instruction issued on July 30, 2020 by the Medical Officer of Health be read a first, second and third time and passed.

FOR INFORMATION

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a worldwide pandemic related to the COVID-19 virus. The Province of Ontario declared a state of emergency on March 17, 2020. On March 21, 2020, the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich, using a coordinated approach with the County of Elgin and other Elgin lower tier municipalities declared a state of emergency. Since the declaration, the province has issued several orders to reduce the spread of the virus including business closures, the temporary discontinuation of social activities and the requirement for physical distancing. These restrictive measures resulted in the successful management and reduction of COVID-19 cases and as a result, the Province began a phased approach to withdraw restrictions through the gradual implementation of Phase 1 and Phase 2.

On July 13, 2020, the Province announced Phase 3 with the reopening of businesses and services to the public commencing July 17, 2020. Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) Medical Officer of Health continues to support these positive efforts in Elgin County through the issuance of a Letter of Instruction for all businesses in Oxford County, Elgin County and the City of St. Thomas mandating face coverings in enclosed public spaces. As outlined in the Medical Officer of Health's Letter of Instruction, municipal partners and SWPH will take an "education-first" approach, however individuals and corporations who are non-compliant may face fines. The instruction took effect on July 30th at 11:59 pm and includes a one-week grace period to allow businesses time to prepare. Businesses are required to develop two (2) policies: one that requires that face coverings be worn while in enclosed spaces and

a second that focuses on physical distancing, face coverings when physical distancing is not possible, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, and requiring staff to stay home while advising they be tested for COVID-19. Policies must be in place by 12:00 a.m. on August 6th. The letter of instruction is in place until further notice is received from SWPH.

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that municipalities pass by-laws for a consistent approach to face coverings across the region. The County of Elgin, the City of St. Thomas and Elgin's six other constituent municipalities have endeavored, as much as possible, to coordinate and align on the implementation of all related actions, consistent with the shared Public Health and Medical Officer of Health oversight.

The Council of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich is supportive of Elgin County's Mandatory Face Covering By-law, however, it is prudent that Dutton Dunwich Council pass their own separate by-law which will be in effect until the emergency is terminated in Dutton Dunwich by the Mayor, as specified in the by-law. The Dutton Dunwich Mandatory Face Covering By-law (COVID-19 Pandemic) is fundamentally similar and consistent with Elgin County's face covering by-law.

Respectfully Submitted

Heather Bouw
Clerk