

## **Mandatory Mask Directive (Frequently asked questions)**

The directive goes into effect at of 12:01 am on July 24, 2020.

This information was compiled from the TBDHU Website.

### **What is an enclosed public space?**

“Enclosed public space” means indoor public spaces of businesses and organizations that are accessed by the public. For example, restaurants, retail establishments, churches, libraries, sports facilities, gyms, common areas and waiting rooms, public transportation and personal service settings are all “enclosed public spaces”. Schools, child care centres, day camps, and other indoor spaces not accessible to the public are not considered an enclosed public space.

### **Do businesses and organizations need to supply face coverings to the public?**

Businesses and organizations are not required to supply masks for the public. Individuals are encouraged to bring their own mask or face coverings. Establishments may choose to have disposable masks available for the public, but it is not a requirement.

### **How can my business or organization notify customers, patrons, employees, or visitors about mask use before entering?**

Signage for mandatory masking is available on the TBDHU website. Businesses and organizations can also produce their own signage. Signage must be displayed in a location that allows customers and clients to read the signage before entering. Verbal reminders can also be provided.

### **How is this being enforced?**

Every business and organization falling under this directive is required to adopt a Mandatory Mask Policy. A sample policy will be available soon. This policy should be implemented and enforced in ‘good faith’ and should primarily be used as a means to educate people on mask or face covering use in indoor public spaces.

## **Should employees be wearing masks?**

Employees working in an enclosed public space should wear a mask unless they are exempt or are working from behind a barrier (e.g. Plexiglass). Businesses and organizations can adopt separate policies and practices, including masking where applicable, for keeping their staff and workplace safe. This includes areas of their workplace that are not accessible to the public. These areas are not included in the instructions provided for enclosed public spaces.

## **What is considered a mask or face covering?**

A mask refers to a cloth (non-medical) mask, medical mask or other face coverings, (e.g. bandana, a scarf or cloth) that serves the purpose of filtering respiratory droplets and securely covers the nose, mouth, and chin and is in contact with the surrounding face without gapping. The mask should be comfortable to the wearer and allow for easy breathing and should not need frequent repositioning or readjusting. For more information, including cleaning re-usable masks, see Masks and Face Coverings.

A face shield is not a substitute for wearing a face mask as it does not filter respiratory droplets. A face shield may provide additional protection for the wearer against droplets expelled from another person, however these droplets may still be inhaled around the shield. Respiratory droplets expelled by the wearer may escape around the sides of the face shield, which therefore provides less protection to others. When wearing a face shield, it is recommended to also wear a properly fitted cloth mask.

## **Are there any circumstances when people are permitted to remove their masks while in an indoor public setting?**

- Temporary removal of the mask or face covering is permitted where necessary when:
- Actively engaging in an athletic or fitness activity including water-based activities
- Consuming food or drink
- Receiving services in a personal service setting on an area of the face that would otherwise be covered by a mask or face covering
- For any emergency or medical purpose