

**PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVE**  
**for Mandatory Mask Use in Enclosed Public Spaces**  
**Issued by the Medical Officer of Health under s. 4(2) of O. Reg. 263/20; *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.9**

Cornwall, July 7, 2020

**Preamble:** Effective July 7, 2020, the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) has made the use of masks or face covering MANDATORY in enclosed (indoor) public spaces accessed by the public. Please consult the end of this document for the definitions of “Enclosed Public space”, “Mask”, “Face Shield” and “Operator”.

**THIS DIRECTIVE IS ADDRESSED TO EVERY OPERATOR OF AN ENCLOSED PUBLIC SPACE PERMITTED TO OPEN (UNDER THE *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION ACT*, R.S.O. 1990 AND RELATED REGULATIONS) IN THE UNITED COUNTIES OF STORMONT, DUNDAS & GLENGARRY; THE UNITED COUNTIES OF PRESCOTT-RUSSELL; AND THE CITY OF CORNWALL.**

**WHEREAS**, I am of the opinion that:

- There is an immediate risk of an outbreak of COVID-19 in the area served by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit; and
- COVID-19 presents a risk to the health of persons in the area served by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit; and
- The requirements specified in this directive are necessary in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to health presented by COVID-19; and
- Delivery of notice of this Directive to each member of a class of persons is likely to cause a delay that could significantly increase the risk to the health of any person.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Medical Officer of Health of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, direct all employers/persons responsible for businesses or organizations to take the following actions, pursuant to O. Reg 263/20 s.4(2) (or as current), **effective 12:01 AM on July 7, 2020:**

- 1. Every Operator of an Enclosed Public Space shall adopt a policy to ensure that no member of the public is permitted to enter or remain in the public areas of the Enclosed Public Space unless he or she is wearing a Mask in a manner that covers their nose, mouth and chin.**

**Exemptions:**

- **Children under two years of age, or children under the age of five years either chronologically or developmentally who refuse to wear a Mask and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver.**
  - **Individuals with medical conditions rendering them unable to safely wear a Mask, including breathing difficulties or cognitive difficulties.**
  - **Individuals who are unable to apply or remove a Mask without assistance, including those who are accommodated under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) or who have protections under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, R.S.O. 1990, c.H.19, as amended.**
  - **A person who is employed by or is an agent of the Operator of an Enclosed Public Space and:**
    - **is in an area of the premises that is not designated for public access, or**
    - **is within or behind a physical barrier (e.g. Plexiglas)**
- 2. Implementation of the policy should be enacted and enforced in “good faith” and should be primarily used as a means to educate people on Mask use in public spaces.**
  - 3. No person shall be required to provide proof of any of the exemptions set.**

**4. The policy shall:**

- Exempt the persons set out in section 1 from the obligation of wearing a Mask.
  - Ensure that all persons working at the establishment are trained in the requirements of the policy.
  - Require that employees and agents wear a Mask when working in the public areas of the premises unless the employee or agent is within or behind a physical barrier.
  - Require that employees and agents provide a verbal reminder to any customer entering the premises without a Mask that the customer should be wearing a Mask.
  - Require, for customers in a premises removing their Mask for extended periods of time, a verbal reminder to that customer of the requirement to wear a Mask under these instructions.
  - Permit the temporary removal of a Mask where necessary for the purpose of:
    - Receiving services; or
    - While actively engaging in dining or an athletic or fitness activity including water-based activities.
- 5. Ensure the availability of soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer at all entrances and exits for the use of all persons entering or exiting the establishment.**
- 6. Every Operator of an Enclosed Public Space, upon request, shall provide a copy of the policy to any person authorized to enforce it.**
- 7. The Operator of an Enclosed Public Space shall post, at every public entrance to the premises, prominent and clearly visible signage that contains the following message:**
- "Prior to entering, wear a face covering to cover your mouth, nose and chin."**

This Directive comes into effect on the time/date indicated above and will remain in effect until further notice. Inquiries regarding this Directive shall be directed to the Eastern Ontario Health Unit at 613-933-1375, ext. 1201, or by fax at 613-938-9707. Failure to comply with this Directive is an offence to which you are liable on conviction to a fine as stipulated in the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.



Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, MD, CM, MPH, FRCP(C)  
Medical Officer of Health/CEO  
Eastern Ontario Health Unit

## DEFINITIONS

### “Enclosed Public Space”

An “Enclosed Public Space” means indoor public spaces accessed by the public. These include, but are not limited to:

- restaurants, cafés, cafeterias, banquet halls
- retail establishments and shopping malls
- churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, or other places of worship
- libraries, museums, art galleries, recreational facilities, bingo halls, community centres and halls, cinemas, theatres, concert venues, special event venues, convention centers, or other similar entertainment, cultural, or leisure facilities
- sports facilities, sports clubs, gyms, yoga studios, dance studios, and stadiums
- common areas of hotels, motels, or short-term rental premises such as lobbies, elevators, meeting rooms (where physical distancing of 2 metres between participants cannot be maintained), rest rooms, laundry rooms, gyms, and kitchens
- public and private transportation including taxis and rideshare services
- common areas of premises under the control of a regulated health professional under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, S.O. 1991, c. 18, as amended, such as waiting rooms
- common areas of hospitals and independent health facilities such as lobbies, food courts and retail establishments
- spas, hair salons, barbers, nail salons, and other personal service settings that are subject to health and safety protocols provided by the Province of Ontario during the provincial emergency
- municipal public spaces

The following are NOT considered an “Enclosed Public Space”:

- Spaces subject to provincial and/or local public health guidance:
  - Schools under the *Education Act, R.S.O. 1990*, c. E.2, as amended
  - Child care centres and providers governed by the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, S.O. 2014, c. 11, as amended
  - Day camps
- Offices not open to the public including professional offices where clients receive services not open to public (e.g. lawyer, accountant)

### “Mask”

A “Mask” means a face covering that can filter respiratory droplets, and that securely covers the nose, mouth, and chin without gapping. A Mask may be a non-medical mask, medical mask or other face covering (e.g. a bandana, scarf or cloth face covering).

Note: A Face Shield (see definition below) can be used in addition to a Mask. However, a Face Shield is NOT a suitable replacement for a Mask, and is not permitted as an alternative to a Mask unless a person cannot wear a Mask for medical or other reasons (see below).

### “Face Shield”

A “Face Shield” means a device that has a transparent window or visor supported in front of the face and provides a barrier of protection to the facial area and related mucous membranes (eyes, nose, lips). Face Shields are not designed to cover the face as snugly as a Mask, and are therefore inferior to Masks with respect to prevention of droplet transmission. However, a Face Shield may offer limited protection and may be used in conjunction with a Mask, or as an alternative to a Mask when a Mask cannot be used for medical or other reasons (such as impaired hearing, heat stress, mental health disorders, developmental disabilities or any other reasons described in “Exemptions” in Section 1 of this Directive).

### “Operator”

“Operator” means the person who controls, governs, directs, or is responsible for the activity carried on within the Enclosed Public Space and includes the person who is actually in charge at any particular time.