



Masks or face coverings mandatory in enclosed spaces open to the public in Burlington. Start July 20, 2020

To help protect the health and safety of the community and stop the spread of COVID-19, Burlington City Council unanimously approved a temporary bylaw to make masks or face coverings mandatory in enclosed public places in Burlington, as of July 20.

The bylaw will be in effect from July 20 until Sept. 30, 2020 unless extended or revoked by City Council.

Halton's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hamidah Meghani, recommends the use of face coverings when physical distancing could be a challenge and is supportive of municipalities implementing bylaws that aim to increase the use of face coverings as an additional layer of protection to control COVID-19 in the community.

The new bylaw applies to all indoor spaces that are openly accessible to the public, including:

- retail stores
- convenience stores
- malls, shopping plazas
- grocery stores, bakeries, farmer's markets (enclosed areas)
- restaurants, bars (when permitted to open for indoor service)
- indoor recreational facilities (unless exempted)
- libraries
- community centres
- community service agencies
- personal service settings
- churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and faith settings
- art galleries, museums
- banquet halls, convention centres, arenas and other event spaces
- real estate facilities such as open house, presentation centres
- common areas in hotels, motels and short-term rentals (e.g. lobbies, elevators, meeting rooms)
- entertainment facilities including concert venues, theatres and cinemas
- business offices open to the public

Exemptions and Exceptions

The bylaw includes exemptions for those who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons including mental health concerns, children under the age of three and other reasonable accommodations.

Children under three years of age should never be required to wear a mask or face covering.

The bylaw also permits the temporary removal of a mask or face covering when receiving services, having a meal or engaging in athletic or fitness activity. The bylaw does not apply to apartment buildings and condominiums, child care facilities and schools, and areas that are not enclosed (i.e. restaurant patios).

Adjusting to the mandatory mask bylaw will take some time. Residents are encouraged to be kind and compassionate with each other, and to approach fellow community members who may not be wearing a mask with understanding and offers of assistance, rather than judgement.

To report an incident of noncompliance, contact the Halton Regional Police Service COVID19 Hotline: 905-825-4722.

Masks have been mandatory on Burlington Transit since July 2. Additional information about the new bylaw is available on [burlington.ca/masks](https://www.burlington.ca/masks)

Residents can stay informed at www.burlington.ca/coronavirus as well as on our social media channels: [@cityburlington](https://twitter.com/cityburlington) on twitter and facebook.com/cityburlington