



COVID-19: MANDATORY MASKS

1. PURPOSE

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit along with other health units across the Province have issued a mandatory directive under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* that requires the public entering/remaining in an enclosed public space and all persons working in an enclosed public space to wear a face covering/mask. There are some exceptions to this rule. It will remain in place until September 30, 2020

This directive is to be primarily used to educate people on facial covering/mask use in enclosed public spaces because 2-metre physical distancing cannot always be maintained.

2. DEFINITIONS

1. **“Mask”** means a cloth (non-medical) mask, medical mask or other face coverings, (e.g., bandana, a scarf or cloth), for filtering respiratory droplets that securely covers the nose, mouth, and chin and is in contact with the surrounding face without gapping.

3. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all municipal departments, facilities and employees.

4. RULES AND GUIDELINES

Members of the Public:

1. Under O. Reg 263/20 s.4(2), 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.
2. The exceptions to this requirement under sub-section (1) are:
 - a) 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;
 - b) Individuals with medical conditions rendering them unable to safely wear a mask, including breathing difficulties or cognitive difficulties;
 - c) 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;

3. No person shall be required to provide proof of any of the exemptions set out subsection 4.2
4. If a member of the public enters the enclosed public space without a face covering/mask than a verbal reminder is provided.

Municipal Employees and Members of Council:

5. Effective July 8, 2020, all employees interacting with the public (except childcare and Mississippi Mills Fire Department), where a protective barrier is not in place must wear a face covering at all times.
6. Effective July 8, 2020, all employees working in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not possible must wear a face covering at all times.
7. If any employee wishes to wear a mask while at work, they can.
8. The internal movement of employees from their regular workspace to a secondary workspace should be limited. If an employee has to attend another municipal building other than their regular place of work, they must wear a face covering at all times while in the secondary workspace.
9. No more than one employee is allowed in a Municipal vehicle.
10. An acceptable face covering is deemed to be a mask as defined above. Managerial approval of the face covering / mask is required. Should an employee not have a face covering, one will be provided.
11. Employees that only interact with peers from the same department in the same workspace do not have to wear a face covering, provided social distancing can be established and maintained. This is at the discretion of the Manager of the respective workspace.
12. Members of Council will be encouraged to email, telephone and web conference rather than attend municipal buildings in person. If they do attend a municipal building, they will be expected to wear a face covering / mask where social distancing cannot be maintained. Members of Council that want to attend a municipal building will be encouraged to make an appointment to ensure limited disruption of regular operations.

5. REVIEW

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit has committed to reviewing the directive relating to mandatory face masks on September 30, 2020.

This policy will be reviewed and made to be compliant with any potential changes to the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit's directive.