



Memo

2020 August 24

ISC: Protected

To: Mayor Nenshi and Members of Council

From: Kay Choi, Strategic Services Manager, Calgary Community Standards
Tom Sampson, Chief, Calgary Emergency Management Agency

Re: Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings Bylaw 26M2020 Update

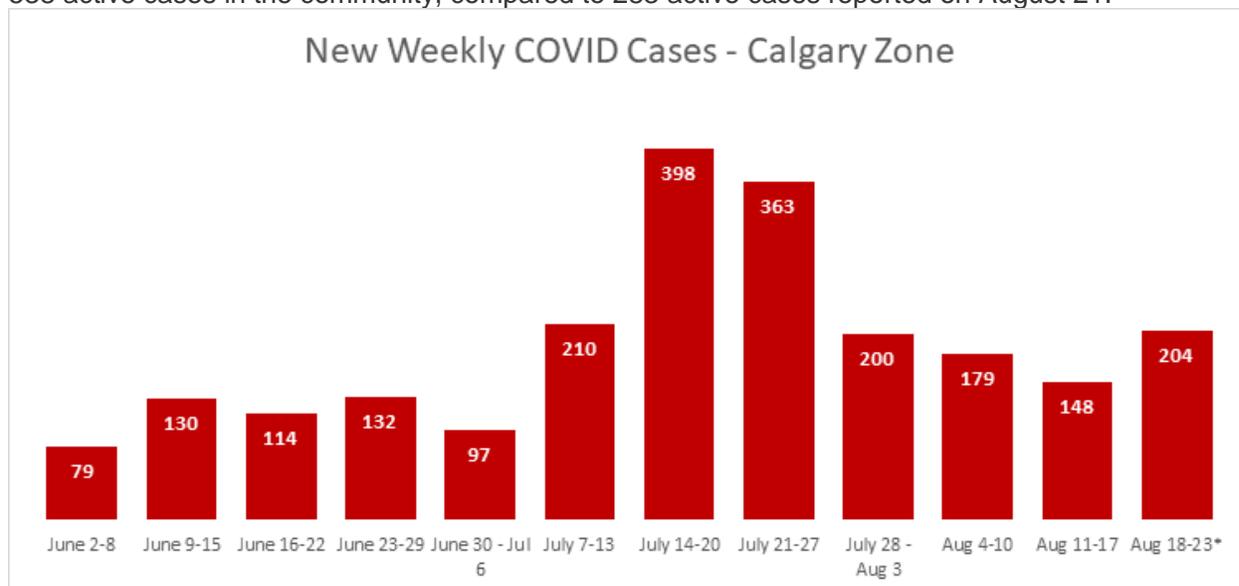
On 2020 July 21, through report C2020-0845 Mandatory Face Coverings, Council directed Administration to provide Council with progress updates on the implementation of the temporary face coverings bylaw. Additionally, on 2020 July 28, through report C2020-0883 Amendments to the Face Coverings Bylaw 26M2020, Council directed Administration to investigate the potential for schools to be regulated under the bylaw and report back as part of the Council update. This memo provides an update on the implementation of the temporary face coverings bylaw and the potential for schools to be regulated under the bylaw.

CALGARY'S CURRENT COVID-19 METRICS

The metrics below provide a synopsis of how COVID-19 has progressed. These data points will continue to be monitored to help measure the necessity of the bylaw. Although face coverings are an important factor in reducing the spread of COVID-19, it is important to remember that they are only one of a series of measures that citizens need to take to reduce the spread of COVID.

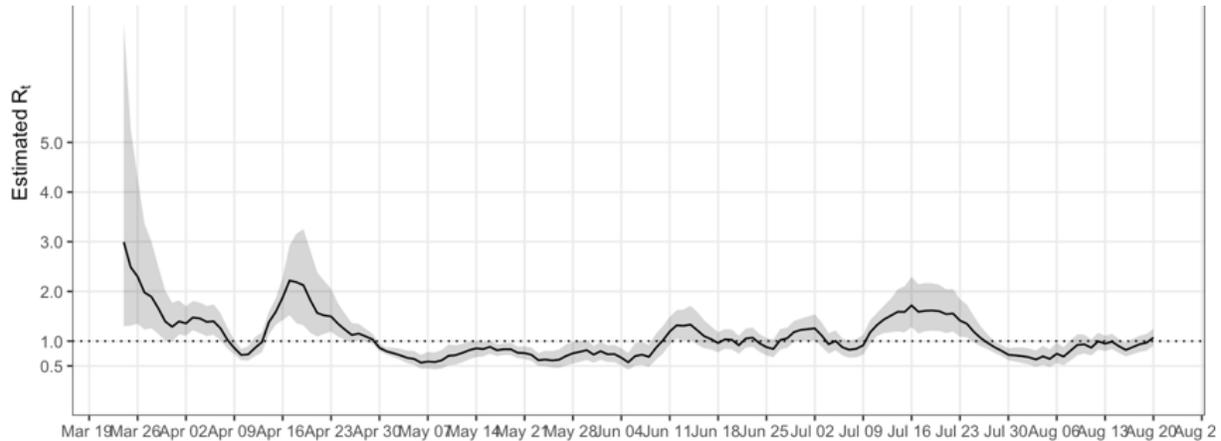
New Weekly COVID-19 Cases

Alberta's Relaunch Strategy's reopening of businesses and resumption of activities has resulted in a gradual increase in new COVID-19 cases in Calgary. Since the bylaw was passed the cases in Calgary have decreased from 398 new cases the week of July 14-20 to 204 new cases the week of August 18-23. In addition, the number of active cases has also decreased. On July 20 there were 538 active cases in the community, compared to 283 active cases reported on August 21.



Reproductive Value

The Reproductive Value represents the transmission rate of the virus from person to person. The reproduction value must be below 1.0 for cases numbers to decrease. In July the reproductive value in Calgary was 1.5, meaning that on average every person with COVID-19 transmitted the virus to 1.5 other people. Since the bylaw was passed the reproductive value has trended down, reaching as low as 0.6 on August 1, and is at approximately 1.071, as of August 20.



Regional Indicator

The Regional Indicator tracks the number of cases per 100,000 people, with 50 cases or more putting the Local Geographic Area (LGA) into watch status. Prior to the bylaw being passed there were three LGAs in watch status; currently there are no LGAs in watch status. As of August 21, the overall regional indicator for the City is 19.1 cases per 100,000 people.

CALGARY LOCAL GEOGRAPHIC AREA (LGA)	JULY 20: CASES/100K	AUGUST 21: CASES/100K
CENTRE	81.6*	33.2
CENTRE NORTH	42.5	9
CENTRE WEST	26	29.1
EAST	33.1	15.2
ELBOW	63.7*	31.8
FISH CREEK	19.6	11.6
LOWER NE	48.8	31.2
LOWER NW	22.4	8
NORTH	32.3	14
NOSEHILL	34.8	19.4
SE	25.2	13
SW	19.2	18.3
UPPER NE	53.1*	37.4
UPPER NW	22.1	8.2
WEST	17.4	20.7
WEST BOW	14.3	4.8
CITY OF CALGARY AVERAGE	34.8	19.1

* Indicates "Watch Status"; LGAs over 50 Cases/100k are added to Watch Status by Alberta Health

IMPLEMENTATION

The temporary face coverings bylaw received three readings on 2020 July 21 and came into force on 2020 August 1. Administration's primary focus continues to be on educating Calgarians on the importance of wearing face coverings in indoor public spaces and public vehicles, over enforcement.

Education: Communications tactics were tailored to make information available as quickly as possible to the business community and community at large. Communications included a business guide, downloadable entryway signage (in several languages), and ongoing social media and media communications to inform Calgarians of the regulation. The bylaw has sparked lots of interest. To date, we have seen almost 965,000 impressions on social media and more than 8,500 positive reactions.

Distribution: The City of Calgary partnered with the Government of Alberta to distribute face coverings to Calgarians. On 2020 August 1, free packages of 10 face coverings were made available at multiple locations throughout the city. Masks were also available to select LRT and bus terminals. To date, The City of Calgary has distributed 1.5 million face coverings.

Compliance: The temporary face coverings bylaw created real change. Since the bylaw came into effect, there has been a noticeable increase in usage of face coverings in public premises and public vehicles. Calgary Transit's monthly ridership survey indicated that the number of customers wearing face coverings has increased to over 90 percent. Administration engaged with business owners to better understand bylaw compliance. Over 75 business owners responded, with 61 per cent indicating there has been an increase in face covering usage since the bylaw went into effect and 90 per cent indicating that they have posted signage requiring face coverings in their business.

Enforcement: Shared enforcement responsibilities are between Community Peace Officers, the Calgary Police Service, Livery Inspectors, and Calgary Transit Peace Officers. The focus of this bylaw is on education first with enforcement as a last resort option. The bylaw has been passively enforced. To date, we have seen approximately 526 reports to 311 and only one ticket has been issued after education and voluntary compliance were unsuccessful.

SCHOOL REGULATION

Administration has investigated the potential for schools to be regulated under the bylaw. The City of Calgary does not have jurisdiction to mandate face coverings through the bylaw in public schools. At present, neither the Municipal Government Act nor the Education Act grant municipalities the discretion or express powers to implement laws and execute policies in schools. Absent express legislative direction, The City does not have the jurisdiction to extend the temporary face coverings bylaw to public schools.

On 2020 August 4 the Government of Alberta announced as part of a number of new school safety measures to combat COVID-19, mandatory mask use for students in grades four to twelve when school returns for the 2020-21 year. Both the Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School Division have since mandated masks in their reopening plans for all students from kindergarten to grade twelve. The FrancoSud School Board has indicated that per provincial regulations it will be requiring masks for children in grades four to twelve.

The Mayor has sent a formal request on behalf of Council to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health, offering support for the education sector policy and commitment to continued collaborative efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. A similar letter was sent to the Chairs of the local boards of education along with an invitation to present at a future meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services on their COVID-19 response programs. This forum will allow the local boards of education to share their expertise, plans and priorities,

enabling The City to enhance collaboration, public awareness and compliance in the best interest of Calgarians.

NEXT STEPS

Administration will be meeting with councillors in September to understand if bylaw amendments are needed and will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19, reporting back to Council on 2020 September 14 with any recommended amendments to the bylaw or a repeal if necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a summary. Please let us know should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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Calgary Emergency Management Agency
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cc: Administrative Leadership Team