

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a health risk. On 2020 16 November 2020 the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta confirmed that the province has entered a 'second wave' of COVID-19. The Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings Bylaw is an important tool to help limit the spread of COVID-19 and keep Calgary's economy open.

Context

On 2020 March 11, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic related to the spread of the COVID-19. With Alberta's Relaunch Strategy's gradual reopening of businesses and resumption of activities, The City of Calgary took the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta, Chief Public Health Officer for Canada, and the World Health Organization, who all strongly recommend the wearing of face coverings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

On 2020 July 21, Council gave three readings to the Temporary COVID-19 Face Covering Bylaw 26M2020, which came into force on 2020 August 1. The Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings Bylaw 26M2020 requires the wearing of face coverings in all public indoor spaces and public vehicles. Additionally, Council directed Administration to report back by 2020 September 14 with Bylaw amendments or repeal if necessary and to provide Council with progress updates on the implementation of the temporary face covering bylaw by 2020 August 24.

On 2020 July 28, Administration returned to Council with amendments to Bylaw 26M2020, which included minor changes to the signage and exception language that provided enhanced clarity. Council also directed Administration to investigate the potential for schools to be regulated under the bylaw.

On 2020 September 14, Administration provided Council with an update on the Temporary COVID-19 Face Covering Bylaw. Council directed administration to return to Council with quarterly updates on the bylaw as long as it remains in effect with the next report back directed to be 2020 December 14.

On 2020 December 7, Council directed Administration to prepare amendments to the Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings Bylaw 26M2020, including but not limited to increasing penalties, and return to Council as soon as possible.

Previous Council Direction

July 21, 2020

Combined Meeting of Council – Mandatory Face Coverings, C2020-0845

Gave three readings to the Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings Bylaw 26M2020. Directed Administration to return to the Combined meeting of Council on 2020 July 27 with amendments to Bylaw if necessary. Directed Administration to provide Council with progress updates no later than 2020 August 24.

Directed Administration to report back to Council no later than 2020 September 14 with recommended amendments or repeal to the Bylaw.

July 28, 2020

Combined Meeting of Council – Amendments to the Face Covering Bylaw 26M2020, C2020-0883

Requested the Mayor to send a formal request on behalf of Council, to the Provincial Ministers of Education and Health, as well as the Chairs of the local Boards of Education, advocating for a Face Coverings policy to be created for Calgary schools prior to schools reopening. Directed Administration to investigate the potential for schools to be regulated under the Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings Bylaw 26M2020 and report back as part of the Council update no later than 24 August 2020. Invited the Chairs of the local boards of education to present at a future meeting of the SPC on Community and Protective Services on their COVID response program.

September 14, 2020

Combined Meeting of Council – Update on Temporary COVID-19 Face Covering Bylaw 26M2020, C2020-1024

Directed Administration to report to the Combined Council Meeting on 2020 December 14 with another status update and any resulting recommended amendments to the bylaw or a repeal if necessary; and Directed Administration to provide future quarterly updates for as long as the bylaw remains in force.

December 7, 2020

Strategic Meeting of Council – CEMA Update (Verbal), C2020-1421

Directed Administration to prepare amendments to the Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings Bylaw 26M2020, including but not limited to increasing penalties, and return to Council as soon as possible.