

Background

The Temporary Face Covering Bylaw is an important tool to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

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 Coverings 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 Coverings 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 Coverings 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 14, Council approved amendments to the Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings Bylaw 26M2020, increasing the fine for failure to wear a face covering where required from \$50 to \$100.

On 2021 May 3, the Emergency Management Committee directed Administration to draft amendments to the Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings Bylaw 26M2020 increasing the fine amount for failure to wear a face covering where required from \$100 to \$500 to be brought to the 2021 May 10 Combined Meeting of Council. This amendment received third reading at the 2021 June 1 Combined Meeting of Council.

Previous Council Direction

