

Background

The Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings 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.

On 2021 June 21 Council directed Administration to return to Council no later than 2021 July 05 with the intention of repealing the Bylaw as soon as possible, provided that the local situation is deemed safe based on an evaluation of trends and rates related to the following criteria:

- Local second doses are high on a comparative scale
- Infection rates are stable or declining
- Hospitalization and Intensive Care Unit rates are stable and/or declining
- Positivity rates are stable and/or declining

Previous Council Direction

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- 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 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 Coverings 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. 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 Coverings 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 14, 2020** Combined Meeting of Council – Update on Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings Bylaw, C2020-1427
- 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.
- June 1, 2021** Combined Meeting of Council – Bylaw Tabulation 46M2021, C2021-0858
- Council gave third reading to 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.
- June 21, 2021** Combined Meeting of Council – Temporary Face Covering Bylaw and COVID-19 Update, C2021-0989
- Directed Administration to return to Council no later than 2021 July 5 to repeal the Face Coverings Bylaw as soon as possible based on local COVID-19 metrics.