

Options for Repealing the Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings Bylaw

Option	Description	Rationale	Risk
1	Return to Council on 2021 July 26 to repeal of the Face Coverings Bylaw on 2021 July 31 if vaccination rates and COVID-19 cases and hospitalization are trending in the right direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligns with Stage 3 of the <i>Open for Summer Plan</i> metrics including the hospitalization rate and is endorsed by the Province Medical Officer of Health. Provides time for recently eligible Calgarians to receive their first and second dose of vaccine. Supports citizens and businesses in reopening activities that welcome visitors to our city while keeping a low impact measure to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Affords time to ensure the lifting of provincial restrictions do not lead to a resurgence in COVID-19. Anticipates that Calgarians will demonstrate high compliance with the bylaw without a provincial mandate, as they have done previously. Allows a better understanding of B.1.617 (Delta) variant, where the Calgary Zone has seen the most cases in Alberta. Addresses the 80% of Calgarians who are more willing to be in public because of the face coverings bylaw, and the 60% that find it stressful to be in public spaces during the pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May create confusion if the Face Coverings Bylaw remains in place when the provincial restriction is lifted. Potential reputational risk if Calgarians believe further restrictions are not needed. The Government of Alberta may take steps to invalidate the Face Coverings Bylaw.
2	Repeal the Face Coverings Bylaw in alignment with Stage 3 of the <i>Open for Summer Plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considers COVID-19 metrics that are a part of the <i>Open for Summer Plan</i>, including the hospitalization rate and is endorsed by the Province Medical Officer of Health. Aligns with repeal criteria identified in previous reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Open for Summer Plan</i> is provincial in scope with no local considerations. Does not account for Calgary-specific activities, metrics or public sentiment. No other safeguards if Stage 3 vaccination rates are not sufficient to mitigate spread of COVID-19. Potential reputational risk if Calgarians believe bylaw was repealed too soon.
3	Repeal the Face Coverings Bylaw when 75 per cent of eligible Calgarians have received a full COVID-19 vaccination series.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligns with advice from the Public Health Agency of Canada on when it would be appropriate to lift restrictions including mandatory face coverings. Supports citizens and businesses in reopening activities that welcome visitors to our city while keeping a low impact measure to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 75 per cent threshold may not be achieved in Calgary. May create confusion if the Face Coverings Bylaw remains in place when the provincial restriction is lifted. Reliant on Government of Alberta for relevant metrics. Potential reputational risk if Calgarians believe further restrictions are not needed. The Government of Alberta may take steps to invalidate the Face Coverings Bylaw.

4	No amendments to existing Council direction to repeal or amend the Face Coverings Bylaw no later than 2021 December.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aligns with previous Council direction.• Aligns with previously established expectations, in the absence of consensus between the provincial and federal governments as to the appropriate metric(s) to repeal face covering requirements..	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May create confusion if the Face Coverings Bylaw remains in place when the provincial restriction is lifted.• Does not align with metrics recommended by either the provincial or federal governments.• Potential reputational risk if Calgarians believe further restrictions are not needed.• The Government of Alberta may take steps to invalidate the Face Coverings Bylaw.
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