

Reference No. 2020-023

August 17, 2020

Dr. Jennifer Russell
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Province of New Brunswick
HSBC Place
520 King Street
P. O. Box 5100
Fredericton, NB E3B 5G8

RE: Community Masks in New Brunswick

Dear Dr. Russell:

On behalf of our Council and entire community, I would like to thank you for your guidance and leadership during this challenging time in New Brunswick. There have been and continue to be so many difficult decisions to be made, and we want to recognize your efforts in navigating our Province through this pandemic.

At our most recent Regular Council Meeting on August 10, 2020, we had an extensive discussion about the need for community masks. We understand that under the current State of Emergency and Public Health Guidelines, masks are mandatory when six-feet of distancing is not possible. While many people follow this necessity, we know that many have taken it lightly and unfortunately, are not taking the requirement seriously despite it being a proven preventative and respectful measure.

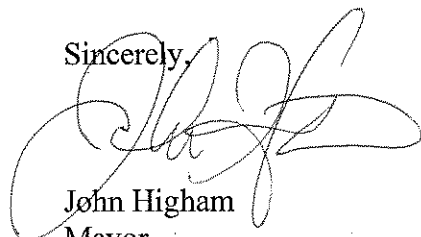
As such, we are respectfully requesting that you consider making community masks mandatory in all indoor public places. In addition to current physical distancing measures and hand hygiene, masks are critical in order to ensure a safe and protected Province. Similar to our neighboring Province of Nova Scotia, we would like to see masks become mandatory in places such as retail businesses, places of worship, places for events, municipal and provincial government locations, as well as common areas of office buildings.

This is a particularly important topic for us in Sackville, given that we are home to Mount Allison University. As we welcome hundreds of students into our community, many of whom are coming from outside the Atlantic Bubble, mandating community masks would help protect both students and community residents and allow everyone to feel more confident.

We must continue to be vigilant and do what we can to minimize the impact of a potential second wave of COVID-19. Our Council feels that mandatory community masks in indoor public spaces would be a key part in protecting our citizens, while also supporting our local economy so that businesses can remain open and continue with their recovery efforts.

We trust that you will consider our request in the best interests of the Province. Thank you for your valuable time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Higham', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

John Higham
Mayor
Town of Sackville

Cc: Town Council
Honourable Premier Blaine Higgs
MLA Megan Mitton
Jamie Burke, CAO