



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 Masking Protocols

Nipawin, Saskatchewan – September 15, 2021

At the regular meeting of Council held September 13th, 2021, resolution #2021-398 was made:

THAT effective immediately Council hereby requires indoor masking at all Town-owned and operated facilities with the policy to be reviewed at the October 12, 2021, Council meeting and that the requirement for masking during physical activities (ie hockey, pickle ball, etc.) be determined based on the recommendation of the senior management team.

1. Effective immediately, all employees and public are required to wear a mask or face covering upon entering and remaining within Town-owned and operated facilities. The mask or face covering must cover the nose, mouth, and chin.
 - a. The following persons are exempted from the requirement to wear a mask or face covering and will not be required to provide proof of such exemption:
 - i. Children under two years of age, or children under the age of five years either chronologically or developmentally who refuse to wear a mask or face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver;
 - ii. Persons with medical conditions who cannot safely wear a mask or face covering (e.g. those living with cognitive impairment, development challenges, breathing difficulties, hearing or communication difficulties, and some persons with mental health conditions);
 - iii. Persons who cannot wear or remove a mask or face covering without assistance, including people accommodated under the *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code and Regulations, 2018* up to the point of undue hardship.
 - iv. Employees who are in an area of the premise that is not designated for public access, or who are alone in their office/working area.
 - b. Temporary removal of the mask or face covering is permitted where necessary for the following purposes:
 - i. Actively engaging in an athletic or fitness activity as determined by the athletic organization;

- ii. Consuming food or drink;
 - iii. For any emergency or medical purpose.
2. This policy will be implemented and enforced in “good faith” to primarily educate people on masks and face coverings and promote their use in enclosed Town-owned and operated spaces.
- a. Persons with exemptions listed under 1a) are not required to show proof of exemption.
 - b. Signs about the requirement to wear masks or face coverings shall be posted at all public entrances.
 - c. Persons entering or remaining without a mask or face covering will be given a verbal reminder of the policy’s masking requirement.
 - d. Employees will be trained on the policy, including where and how to properly wear a mask or face covering, and how to help and respond to customers who do not have a mask or face covering.

These safety measures are back in place because of the rising cases of COVID-19 and increases spread of the highly transmissible virus. The health and safety of our employees and community remains the Town’s top priority.

The Government of Saskatchewan Premier and Medical Health Officer remind us that the best method to protect ourselves against COVID-19 is to be fully vaccinated and continue to practice preventative actions including masking, washing our hands, and physical distancing.



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