



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, July 23, 2020)

Mask/face covering toolkit released by RCDHU

On July 14, mandatory mask/face covering took effect in Renfrew County and District, and the Renfrew County District Health Unit (RCDHU) is providing resources to help individuals and businesses understand the requirements.

Since the announcement of the mandatory mask/face covering directive on July 6, RCDHU has developed a [COVID-19 Information for Business Operators Toolkit](#) to answer lingering questions.

"We've compiled a tool for businesses that includes mask/face covering information and directions, guidance documents, fact sheets, FAQs, etc., that is available both online and as hard copy," notes Dr. Robert Cushman, RCDHU Acting Medical Officer of Health.

The directive requires residents to wear a mask/face covering in enclosed public spaces (unless they have an exemption). It also outlines the responsibilities and requirements of businesses and organizations to ensure the mask/face covering regulations are met in their facilities for the protection of both staff and clients.

In addition to preparing their facility, putting a policy in place, posting mask/face covering signage, providing hand sanitizer at entrances and exits, and training staff, business operators will also be screening employees and customers, and educating/reminding those who enter their premises about masks/face coverings.

Other precautions include placing markers on the floor to ensure physical distancing as well as cleaning/disinfecting high-touch surfaces.

Implementation of the requirements applies to all businesses across Renfrew County and District including retail and personal services (e.g., hair and nail salons), restaurants and food services, and transportation services. Specific guidance is available for different sectors. Taxis, for example, are required to have both passengers and drivers wear a mask/face covering. They are advised to consider installing physical barriers between the driver and passengers, ask passengers to handle their own belongings, not have passengers in the front seat and avoid picking up multiple passengers who would not otherwise ride together.

While it's important to wear a mask/face covering to help stop the transmission of COVID-19, it's equally important to make sure it meets the recommendations and doesn't become contaminated during use.

Masks/face coverings should fit properly (covering nose, mouth and chin), be put on/taken off properly (i.e., washing hands before and after, and avoid touching the mask while wearing), be stored properly if removed, and washed after each use for cloth mask/face covering. Masks/face coverings should not be worn around the neck, stuffed in pockets or set on soiled surfaces. Disposable masks should not be reused.

It's also important to note that wearing a mask/face covering does not replace physical distancing whenever possible.

"With the transition to reopen businesses and community settings in Stage 3, it is critical that we continue to work together to control the spread of COVID-19 and prevent a spike in cases. This means washing your hands, practicing physical distancing and wearing a mask/face covering while in enclosed public spaces. "Please remember to be kind to one another—don't judge those who can't wear a mask/face covering," reminds Dr. Cushman.

For additional information visit the [RCDHU website](#) or call the RCDHU at 613-735-8654 or 1-800-267-1097 (extension 555 for business re-opening).

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