



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 2:30 p.m., March 3, 2021)

RCDHU Reminder of Mandatory Masking Requirements

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) would like to remind residents that the best way to stop the spread of COVID-19 is by staying home and avoiding close contact with others outside of your immediate household. However, if you do choose to go out, it is imperative that you maintain physical distance, wear a mask/face covering whenever physical distancing is a challenge, and practice proper hand hygiene.

"This reminder comes after receiving several complaints from residents across Renfrew County and District (RCD) notifying RCDHU of various people and settings, not adhering to masking requirements," states Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health, RCDHU.

On January 14, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., the provincial government required all individuals to wear a mask or face covering in indoor areas of businesses or organizations that are open to the public. Wearing a mask or face covering is also recommended outdoors when you cannot maintain a physical distance of more than two metres. Examples of areas where masks/face coverings are required include:

- public spaces (for example, inside stores, event spaces, entertainment facilities and common areas in hotels);
- workplaces;
- vehicles that operate as part of a business or organization, including taxis and rideshares.

Additionally, any person that comes within 2 metres of someone not wearing a mask/face covering and is not behind a barrier has to wear a surgical grade mask and eye protection. Food service workers and personal service workers are examples where this would apply.

It is important that while in the workplace, individuals remember to wear masks while in break rooms, a vehicle or on breaks (even outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained). Evidence gathered from COVID-19 related workplace inspections to date shows that most employers and employees are following COVID-19 safety requirements when working. However, when in a break room, a vehicle or on break, there is a tendency to forget about the importance of wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and practicing hand hygiene.

New enforcement measures were put in place. Tickets can be issued to individuals who do not comply with wearing a mask or face covering. Those who do not abide by orders can be subject to fines and/or prosecution under both the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act \(ROA\)](#) or [Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act \(EMPCA\)](#) as applicable.

In addition to these public health measures, everyone must do their part to stay home if they are sick, avoid contact with people who are ill, wash their hands, use the COVID Alert App, and complete the [COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) or [COVID-19 school and childcare screening tool](#) daily if they go to work, school or daycare, to monitor for symptoms and proper guidance.

For more information, visit RCDHU's website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronaviruscovid-19-2/> or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.

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