



**BYLAW NO. 1973-20  
OF THE CITY OF WETASKIWIN  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

**A BYLAW TO REQUIRE THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS IN INDOOR PUBLIC PREMISES AND PUBLIC VEHICLES.**

**WHEREAS** on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic related to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the COVID-19 pandemic remains a health risk;

**AND WHEREAS** the World Health Organization, Chief Public Health Officer for Canada and the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta have identified face coverings as a way to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 in circumstances where physical distancing may not be possible;

**AND WHEREAS** physical distancing may not be possible in indoor public premises and in public vehicles;

**AND WHEREAS** pursuant to section 7 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-16 a council of a municipality may pass bylaws respecting;

- (a) the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property; and
- (b) people, activities and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public; and
- (c) businesses, business activities and persons engaged in business;

**AND WHEREAS** Council considers it expedient and desirable for the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of Wetaskiwin to require the wearing of face coverings in indoor public premises and in public vehicles;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WETASKIWIN ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SHORT TITLE**

1. This Bylaw may be cited as the "Temporary COVID-19 Face Coverings Bylaw".

**DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION**

2. (1) In this Bylaw:

- (a) "employer" includes any person who as the owner, proprietor, manager, superintendent or overseer of any activity, business, work, trade, occupation or

profession, has control over or direction of, or is directly or indirectly responsible for the employment of a person therein;

(b) "face covering" means a mask or other face covering that covers the mouth, nose and chin ensuring a barrier that limits the transmission of infectious respiratory droplets;

(c) "officer" means a Community Peace Officer appointed pursuant to the Peace Officer Act, S.A. 2006, c. P-3.5, or a police officer appointed pursuant to the Police Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-17;

(d) "operator" includes the person responsible for the day to day operations of a public premises or public vehicle and a proprietor of a public premises;

(e) "proprietor" means the person who ultimately controls, governs or directs the activity carried on within any public premises or public vehicle referred to in this Bylaw and includes the person usually in charge thereof;

(f) "public premises" means all or any part of a building, structure or other enclosed area to which members of the public have access as of right or by express or implied invitation but excludes any premises for which there is an enrolment or membership requirement in order to access it;

(g) "public vehicle" means a bus, taxi or other vehicle that is used to transport members of the public for a fee;

(2) All schedules attached to this Bylaw form part of this Bylaw.

(3) Headings or sub-headings are inserted for ease of reference and guidance purposes only and do not form part of this Bylaw.

(4) Where this Bylaw cites or refers to any act, regulation, code or other bylaw, the citation or reference is to the act, regulation, code or other bylaw as amended, whether amended before or after the commencement of this Bylaw, and includes reference to any act, regulation, code or other bylaw that may be substituted in its place.

(5) Each provision of this Bylaw is independent of all other provisions and if any provision is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of this Bylaw remain valid and enforceable.

(6) Nothing in this Bylaw relieves a person from complying with any provision of any federal, provincial or municipal law or regulation or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or licence.

### **PROHIBITION**

3. A person must wear a *face covering* in a *public premises* or a *public vehicle*, unless the person is separated from other persons by an installed screen, shield or other barrier.

## **EXCEPTIONS**

4. Section 3 does not apply to:

- (a) children under 2 years of age;
- (b) persons with an underlying medical condition or disability which inhibits their ability to wear a *face covering*;
- (c) persons who are unable to place, use or remove a *face covering* safely without assistance;
- (d) persons who are seated at a table or bar at a *public premises* that offers food or beverage services;
- (e) persons engaging in an athletic or fitness activity;
- (f) persons who are caregiving for or accompanying a person with a disability where wearing a face covering would hinder the accommodation of the person's disability;  
or<sup>33</sup>
- (g) persons who have temporarily removed their face covering where doing so is necessary to provide or receive a service.

## **SIGNAGE**

5. An employer, operator or proprietor must prominently display a sign

- (a) in the form and containing the content; or
- (b) with substantially the same form and content;  
as set out in Schedule A, in a location that is visible to a person immediately upon entering the public premises or a public vehicle.

## **OFFENCES**

6. Any person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw by doing any act or thing which the person is prohibited from doing, or by failing to do any act or thing the person is required to do, is guilty of an offence pursuant to this Bylaw.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

7. (1) Where an officer believes that a person has contravened any provision of this Bylaw, the officer may commence proceedings against the person by issuing a violation ticket in accordance with the Provincial Offences Procedure Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-34.

(2) This section shall not prevent an officer from issuing a violation ticket requiring a court appearance of the defendant pursuant to the Provincial Offences Procedures Act or from laying an information instead of issuing a violation ticket.

**PENALTY**

8. (1) Where there is a specified penalty listed for an offence in Schedule B to this Bylaw, that amount is the specified penalty for the offence.

(2) Upon conviction, if the totality of the circumstances surrounding any contravention of this bylaw indicate a marked endangerment or increased risk of endangering public health the Justice may deviate from the specified penalty when determining the appropriate fine amount.

(3) In this section, “specified penalty” means an amount that can be paid by a person who is issued a violation ticket and is authorized to make a voluntary payment without a Court appearance.

**COMING INTO FORCE**

9. This Bylaw shall come into force upon Alberta Public Health, or other duly appointed provincial government authority, reporting that there exists 15 or more active cases of the COVID-19 virus in the City.

10. Council may by resolution, implement the provisions of this bylaw at any time

**REVERSION**

11. If the provisions of this bylaw have been enacted in accordance with Section 9 they may only be reverted if the Government of Alberta rescinds the Watch designation on the City of Wetaskiwin and it remains free of such for a period of 30 (thirty) consecutive days.

12. Council may by resolution, revert the provisions of this bylaw enacted in accordance with Section 10 of this bylaw at any time.

Read a first time this 28 day of September 28, 2020.

Read a second time this 28 day of September 28, 2020.

Read a third time this 28 day of September 28, 2020.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

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**TYLER GANDAM, MAYOR**

ORIGINAL SIGNED

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**SUE HOWARD,  
CITY MANAGER**

**SCHEDULE A**  
(under development)

## SCHEDULE B

### PENALTIES

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description of Offence</b>	<b>Specified Penalty</b>
3	Fail to wear <i>face covering</i> where required	\$50
5	Fail to display prescribed signage	\$200