

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2021

SUBMITTED BY: G. Klenke, City Solicitor

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REPORT TITLE: Face Coverings Bylaw Options

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Face Coverings Bylaw (Bylaw) was created with the intent of ensuring that, should the number of active COVID-19 cases exceed 10, residents of the City of Leduc must wear face coverings in public places in order to help prevent the spread of the illness. This report outlines some options for the future of the Bylaw.

BACKGROUND

At the February 22, 2021, Council meeting the following motion was passed:

That Administration bring forward a report outlining options for the future of the Face Coverings Bylaw.

NEXT STEPS

The following are a number of options for Council's consideration relative to the Bylaw:

Option 1: Let the Enactment of the Bylaw Stand:

The Bylaw was created with the intent of ensuring that residents of the City of Leduc wear face coverings in public places in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Current Provincial public health restrictions supersede the Bylaw. However, should the Province reduce, or remove, their requirement for face coverings, the requirements as set out in the Bylaw will remain in effect.

Option 2: Pass a motion directing that the operation and enforcement of the Bylaw be suspended indefinitely:

The Bylaw was enacted by Council once the number of active cases in Leduc exceeded 10 and, by a motion, Council can suspend the operation of the Bylaw as stated in s. 20. By doing so, Council effectively directs that the Bylaw's restrictions would not be mandated or enforced. This option would ensure that, should the situation arise where re-engagement of restrictions would be considered to be in the best interests of the City, it could be done so quickly by a simple motion of Council. At a later date, Council could direct that a repealing bylaw be brought forward.

Option 3: Pass a motion directing that amendments be brought forward that would see the Bylaw linked directly to the Province's mandatory, province-wide restrictions. This option would mirror any repeal or partial repeal of Provincial restrictions.

Option 4: Pass a motion directing that Administration bring forward a bylaw to repeal the Face Coverings Bylaw

There are two sub-options envisioned here:

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE

1. A repealing bylaw that is unconditional and immediately effective; or
2. A repealing bylaw that is effective once a threshold number of cases is reached, i.e. 10 or fewer confirmed cases in the City.

Amendments to, or a repeal of, a Bylaw can only be made by way of a new Bylaw. Depending on the direction of Council, Administration will return with a Council Decision Report in order to implement the required changes.

ATTACHMENTS

Bylaw No. 1062-2020 – Face Coverings Bylaw