

July 9, 2020

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

His Worship Jamie McGarvey and Council
Town of Parry Sound
52 Seguin Street
Parry Sound, ON P2A 1B4
jamie@townofparrysound.com

Dear Mayor and Council:

RE: Face Coverings

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Health Unit) is in consultation with the Ministry of Health (Ministry) in regards to mandating face coverings across the province. We understand the concerns of the community and yourselves and take the COVID-19 precautions seriously. It is due to the hard work of everyone within our district that we have helped to reduce the spread of COVID-19, which is evident in our case numbers. However, we cannot be complacent with the precautions we take, as COVID-19 is still in our communities. The Health Unit recommends the use of face coverings when physical distancing is a challenge, to continue to physical distance with individuals outside your social circle and to wash or sanitize hands often.

Through consultation with the Ministry, the Health Unit was informed that a provincial statement on face coverings would be shared soon. A provincial approach to face coverings would result in a clear direction that is consistent across Ontario.

In the event that a provincial approach on face covering is not implemented by the Ministry, the Northern Medical Officers of Health are working together to develop a Northern regional approach to mandatory face coverings. A Northern approach would allow for consistent messaging.

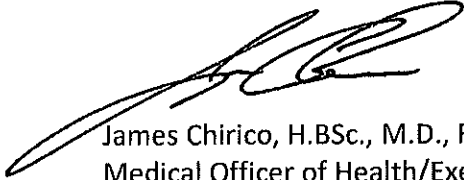
A face covering does not replace physical distancing and other protective health measures such as hand washing, and isolating yourself when you have symptoms, or have come in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or suspected to have COVID-19.

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Currently, there is no specific treatment for COVID-19. It is important to remember that most people with COVID-19 have no symptoms or mild symptoms. People who are mildly ill should isolate and care for themselves at home. Most will recover in one to two weeks by simply treating the symptoms.

Thank you for your commitment to reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely yours,



James Chirico, H.BSc., M.D., F.R.C.P. (C), MPH
Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer

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Copy to: Norm Miller, MPP – Parry Sound-Muskoka
Hon. Vic Fedeli, MPP – Nipissing
John Vanthof, MPP – Timiskaming-Cochrane
Donald Sanderson, Chief Executive Officer, West Parry Sound Health Centre
Dr. Wil Smith, President of Medical Staff, West Parry Sound Health Centre
Member Municipalities of the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit