

# **Report to EAC**

## **July 28, 2020**

Face coverings implementation

# Agenda

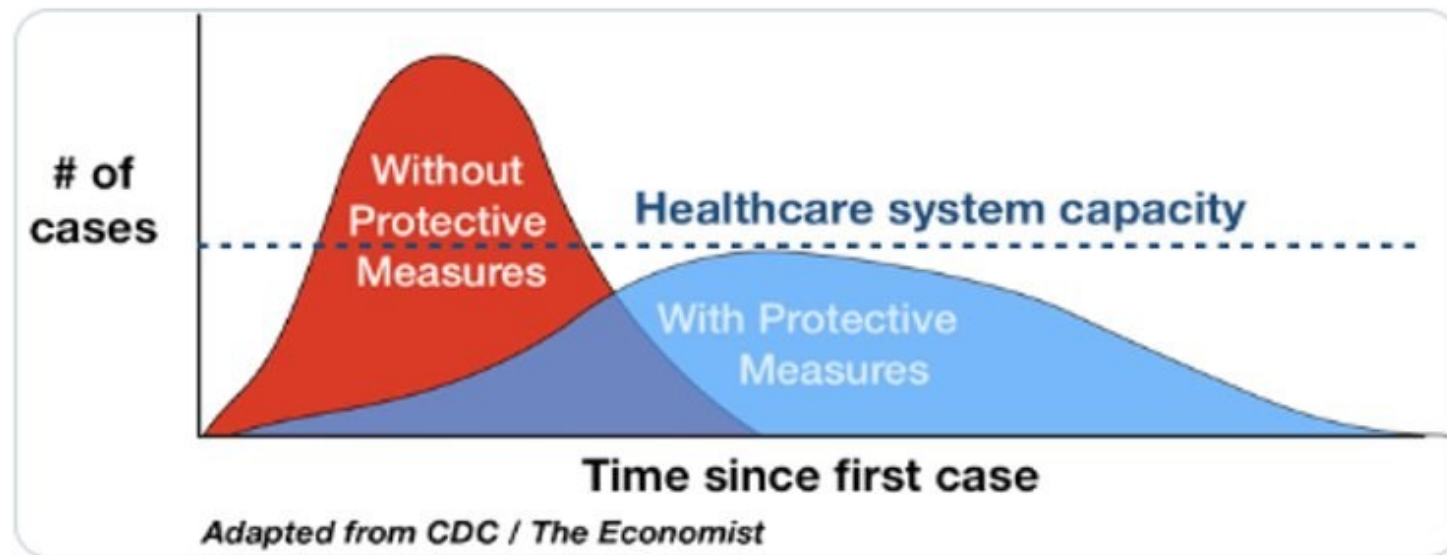
- **Provincial update**
- **County facilities and vehicles**
- **Bylaw considerations**
- **Other municipalities**
  - **Edmonton**
  - **Calgary**



# Approach

Important to remember that COVID-19 epidemic control measures may only delay cases, not prevent.

However, this may limit surge and gives hospitals time to prepare and manage.



# Alberta Health

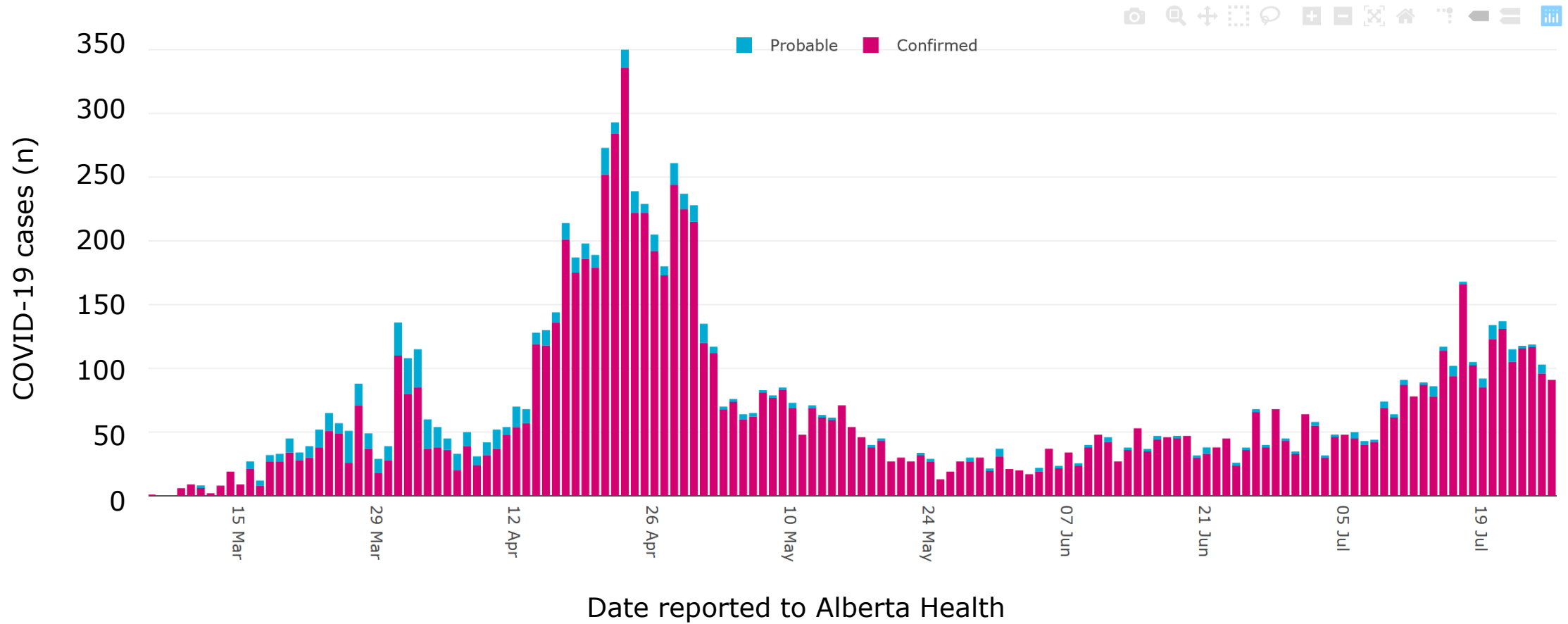
June 12 – Alberta entered Stage 2 of the Relaunch Strategy

<b>July 27, 2020</b>	<b>Alberta</b>
Confirmed cases	10,390
Active cases	1,430
Recovered Cases	8,774
Deaths	186

<b>July 27, 2020</b>	<b>Sherwood Park*</b>	<b>Strathcona County*</b>
Cases	30	27
Active	6	3
Recovered	24	24
Deaths	0	0

\*As defined by Alberta Health

# Case count by day



# Active cases per 100k

July 28, 2020	Active cases	Active per 100k
Strathcona County	9	9.1
Edmonton	246	24.1
Calgary	582	43.2
Alberta	1430	32.5*

\*Based on population as at April 1, 2020



# Alberta Health

## Key measures

July 20, 2020	Alberta	Edmonton Health Zone
Active hospital beds (COVID-19)	88	26
Hospital bed capacity	8,483	3,020
Active ICU beds (COVID-19)	17	6
ICU bed capacity	150	

### Key measures and timing

Getting to each stage of relaunch depends on our ability to keep infection rates low, and well within the capacity of the healthcare system. Health measures we are watching include:

	Percentage of tests that are positive
	Hospitalization and intensive care unit (ICU) rates

Confirmed cases continue to be monitored in real-time to inform proactive responses in localized areas of the province.

We need to learn as we go and evaluate as we take careful, considered steps from one stage to the next. There may be times we need to take a step back, but in time, we will adjust and move forward together.

Continuous evaluation of health triggers could result in restrictions being removed or reapplied in some localized areas of the province.

# CMOH - July 23, 2020

- There has been a great deal of discussion around masks recently. It is something that I continue to discuss regularly with my counterparts in BC, Ontario and across the country.
- I believe that masking is critically important and we've undertaken many efforts to normalize and promote the wearing of masks over the last several months. ...
- We are looking at the evidence around mask use in school settings and our guidance for schools will continue to evolve in the days ahead. ...
- **Also, let me be clear: I am strongly recommending that Albertans wear masks.** ...
- **If you are watching this and don't wear a mask, please start today.**



# COUNTY FACILITIES AND VEHICLES

# Guiding principles for relaunch

## People first

- Ensure the safety of our staff and customers
- Maintain services and service levels for citizens

## Thoughtfully follow guidance from Alberta Health

- To date this has been a key strength of our response

## A phased and scaled approach

- The issue of face coverings is moving quickly, but can still be phased in terms of our expectations

## Constant, coordinated communication, centralized as much as possible

- The importance of being unified during challenging times

# Guiding principles for relaunch

## 5. Flexibility

- Health guidelines can change
- Outbreaks are possible, a second wave is expected

## Risk-based decision-making

- Organizations and citizens have tools to mitigate risks associated with COVID

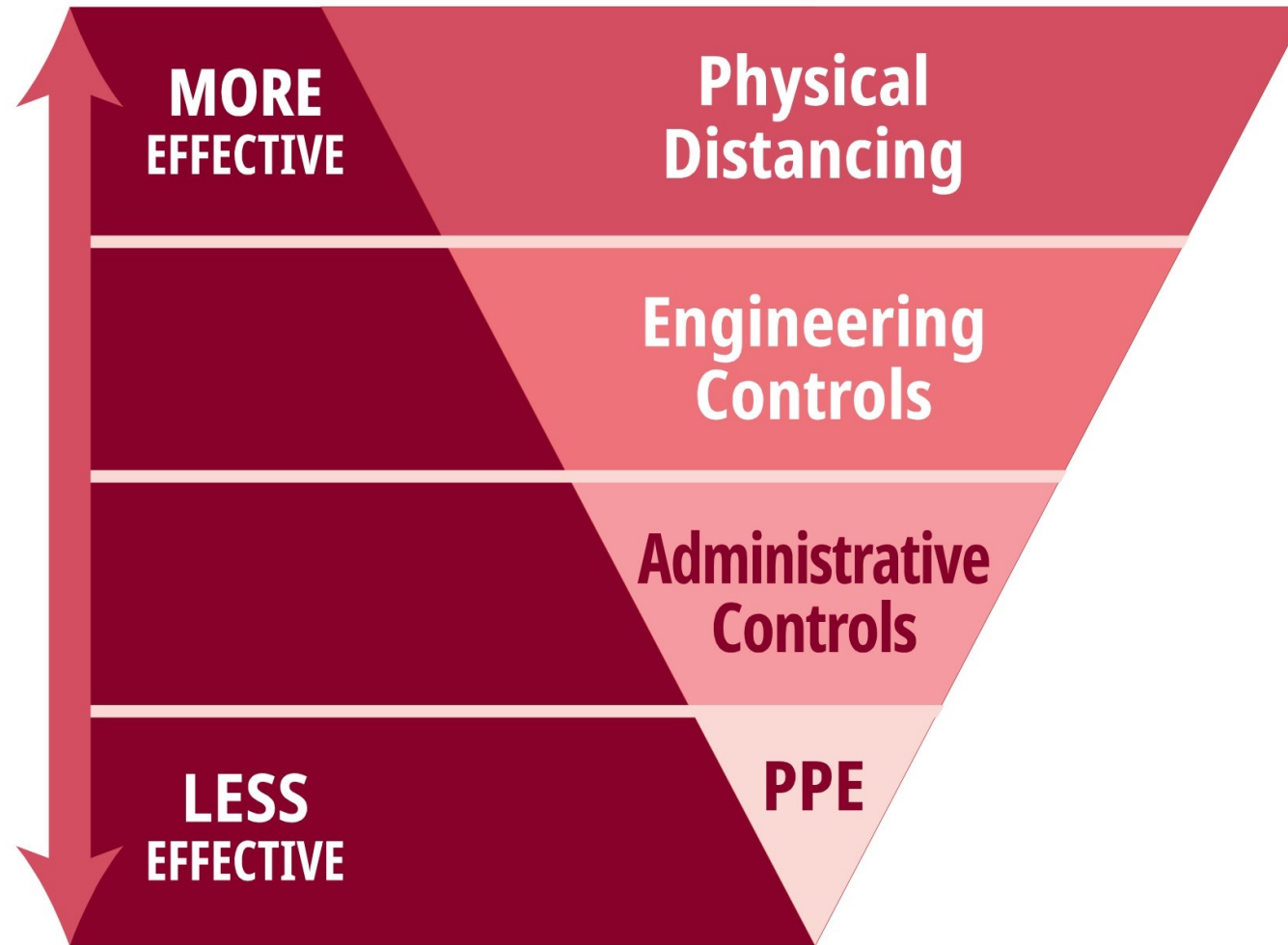
## Collaboration

- Consistency in service delivery across departments
- Working together with our neighbours in the region

## Engagement

- Meet needs of community
- Involve staff in the re-entry planning and leverage their expertise

# Face coverings are one control



# Measures to slow the spread

- Stay home when you're sick
- Stay at least two metres apart
- Wash / sanitize your hands frequently
- Outdoors rather than indoors
- Limit time of exposure

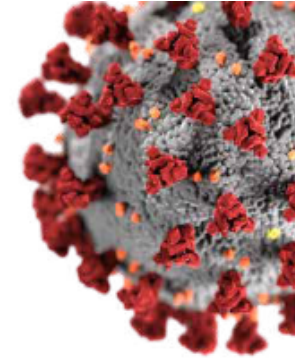
# Maintaining physical distance is difficult

## Face coverings are an extra layer of protection



### Going Out? Do it Safely!

Your actions matter – make informed choices to keep yourself and others safe.



Avoid



Closed spaces



Crowded places



Close contact



Always



Stay home and away from others if you feel sick



Follow local public health advice



Stick to a small and consistent social circle

# Educating on proper use

COVID-19 INFORMATION

## HOW TO WEAR A NON-MEDICAL MASK

Non-medical masks, including homemade cloth masks, can help prevent the spread COVID-19. They are another tool to use in places where it's difficult to keep two metres from other people for extended periods of time – such as public transit, grocery stores, pharmacies, hair salons, airplanes and some retail shops.

Masks do not replace proper hygiene, physical distancing or isolation to prevent the spread.

**SAFELY PUTTING A MASK ON**

- 1 Wash/sanitize your hands.
- 2 Inspect the mask, holding it by the ties or loops. Discard if damaged or dirty.
- 3 Open fully to cover from the bridge of your nose to your chin.
- 4 Adjust the mask to your face so there are no gaps on the side.
- 5 If mask has stiff edge, pinch to close gaps between nose and mask.
- 6 Keep your nose, mouth and chin covered at all times. Avoid touching the mask.

**SAFELY TAKING OFF A MASK**

- 1 Wash/sanitize your hands.
- 2 Remove it from the back by releasing ties or loops. Do not touch the front of the mask.
- 3 Discard the mask immediately if disposable. Wash thoroughly if reusable.
- 4 Wash/sanitize your hands.
- 5



# Communication



Healthy Albertans.  
Healthy Communities.  
**Together.**





# Our messages

- Let's look out for one another. We can do this.
  - To stay healthy
  - To stay safe
  - To stay open
  - To protect others
- We are in this together.
- If you don't yet wear a mask... start today.



## SAFETY GUIDELINES



COVID-19  
Stop the spread



IS YOUR MASK ON?

### Help keep our community safe

- Keep at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance away from people outside of your household.
- Stay home if you are sick or displaying any symptoms of COVID-19
- Avoid touching communal surfaces
- Wash your hands frequently and carry your own hand sanitizer
- Wear a non-surgical mask
- Avoid touching your face
- Follow Alberta Health Services gathering restrictions

[strathcona.ca/covid19](https://strathcona.ca/covid19)

*Thank you for your cooperation!*



STRATHCONA COUNTY

# Approach

- Face coverings will be required in municipally-owned and operated facilities and vehicles effective August 4, 2020
- Education and communication will be the foundation of our approach
- Distribution of provincial masks will help as an effective transition measure
  - Transit - July 27
  - Recreation Facilities - July 31
- We will monitor and adjust as we work through the first few weeks to achieve best possible compliance

# Education / guest service approach

To do this together, we need to work together...

- Educate and inspire – we all have a role to play; staff will model behaviour
- Respond to need – identify and communicate exceptions for customers and staff
- Evaluate – adapt and adjust to best meet need
- Reduce the risk – train staff with extra responsibility to educate and encourage compliance; provide options to prevent customer tensions from developing

# Internal approach

- This is moving quickly, our staff are agile
- We are confident our staff will be great ambassadors
  - Education focused
  - Listen and learn together; including addressing exceptions based on individual needs
  - Model behaviours
- Upcoming and ongoing education and protocols include:
  - Staff notices, key messages, FAQs
  - Continue to share most current information

# **BYLAW CONSIDERATIONS**

# Why consider a bylaw?

- This is the tool available for a municipality to achieve a consistent approach through all facilities (e.g. restaurants, retail) and vehicles (e.g. taxi, ride share) within Strathcona County
- Our discussion up until now has been solely about those facilities and vehicles that we own and operate

# Authority

- A mandatory face covering bylaw would have to fit under a municipal purpose category (MGA, s. 3), as well as under a bylaw enactment authority (MGA s. 7).
- The best fit would be the municipal purpose “to develop and maintain safe and viable communities” (MGA, s. 3 (c)), and the bylaw enactment authority would be as follows:

# Authority

- s. 7 A Council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting the following matters:
  - . . .
  - a) The safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;
  - b) People, activities and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public;
  - . . .
  - e) businesses, business activities and persons engaged in business



# Exceptions

- Children under 2 years of age
- People with an underlying medical condition or disability which inhibits their ability to wear a face covering
- People who are unable to place, use or remove a face covering safely without assistance
- People who are eating or drinking at public premises that offers food or beverage services
- People engaging in athletic or fitness activity
- People who are caregivers for or accompanying a person with a disability, where wearing a face covering would hinder the accommodation

# Benefits

- Science supports face coverings as an effective mitigation measure to curb transmission
- A significant way to role model good public health practices for our community
- One effective way to keep our relaunch on track and keep our community “open”
  - Community services, Businesses, Schools
- Regional consistency

# Risks

- The Province of Alberta is in a better position to mandate the wearing of face coverings
- Extra responsibility for staff to educate and encourage compliance
- Potential for customer tensions to develop

# Alternatives

- Our residents often rise to the occasion
  - monitor COVID-19 cases in community and response to leadership in our facilities and vehicles
- Augment with a strong communications campaign
  - Similar to physical distancing campaign
- Seek out champion agencies to join us (e.g. churches, businesses)
- Conduct an engagement; in particular the Chamber of Commerce

**EDMONTON**

# Edmonton

- July 29: bylaw for debate – mandatory face coverings for indoor spaces including private business
- August 1: face coverings required inside all City buildings, amenities, attractions, Transit
- Focus on education as residents adjust

# Edmonton survey

- 71 per cent feel making face coverings mandatory would make it more likely for them to use transit again
- 76 per cent believe face coverings should be mandatory inside public spaces

**CALGARY**



# Calgary

- July 21: Council votes to pass temporary bylaw
- Effective August 1, face coverings are mandatory:

Places	Examples
Public transit	Buses, shuttles, CTrains
Public vehicles for hire	Taxis, Uber
Public indoor spaces	Malls, grocery stores, retail businesses, churches
City of Calgary facilities	Recreation centres, City Hall, City of Calgary buildings

- Focus on education

# Calgary survey

- 34 per cent always wear a face covering in public
  - far below WHO's desired 80 per cent
- 63 per cent would feel safer if face coverings were mandatory on transit
- 74 per cent support making face coverings mandatory
- Bylaw informed by feedback from 2,000 local businesses and City of Calgary operations