

Special Council Meeting

August 6, 2020

Proposed Mandatory Face Covering Bylaw

Agenda

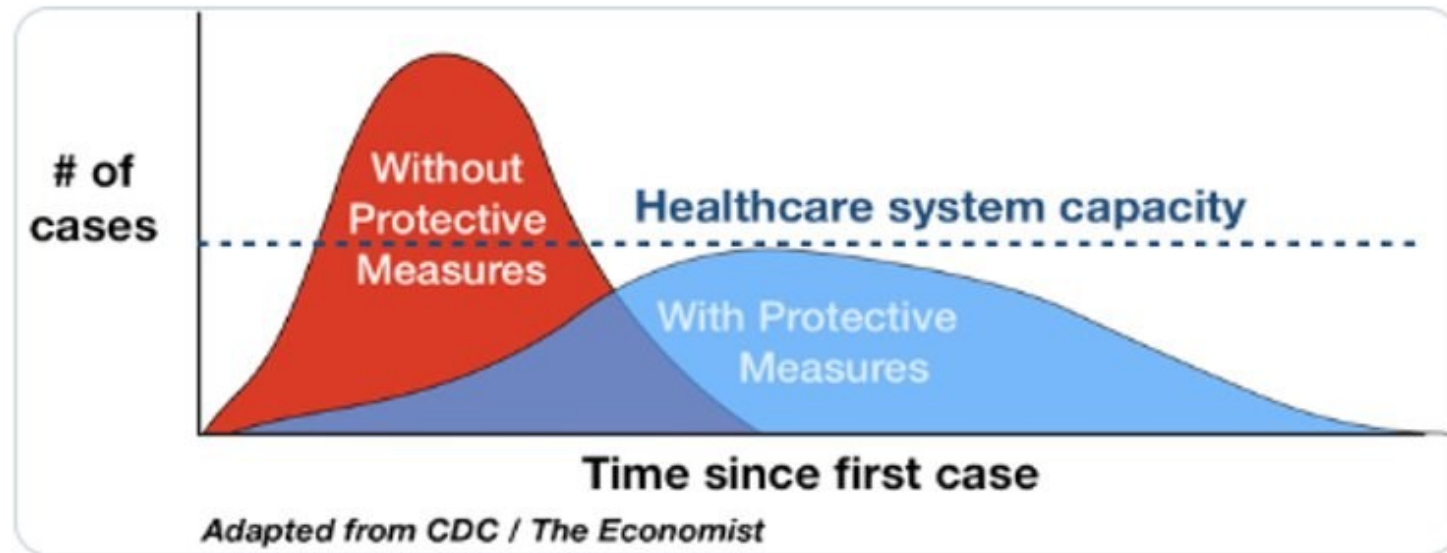
- **Provincial update**
- **Community engagement**
- **Proposed bylaw**



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

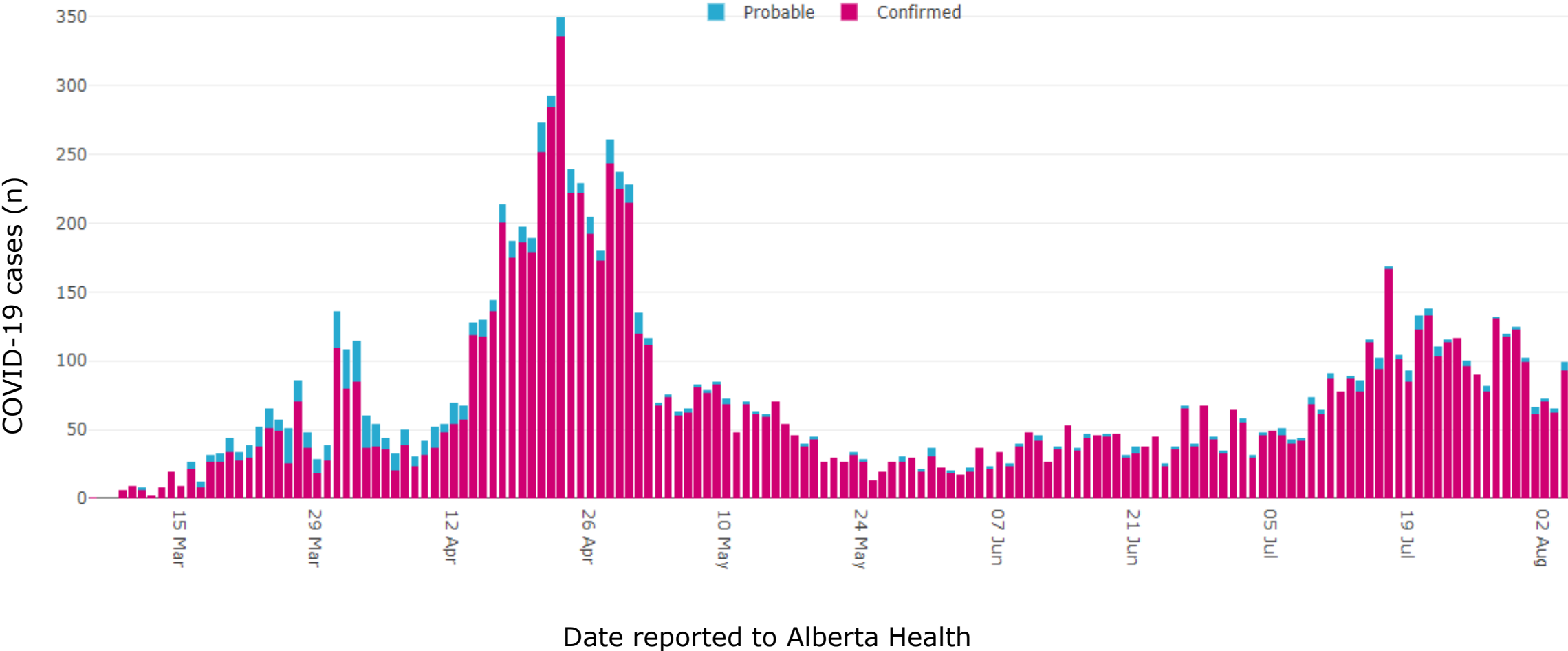
- June 12 – Alberta entered Stage 2 of the Relaunch Strategy

August 4, 2020	Alberta
Confirmed cases	11,240
Active cases	1,146
Recovered Cases	9,891
Deaths	203

August 4, 2020	Sherwood Park*	Strathcona County*
Cases	36	27
Active	7	2
Recovered	29	25
Deaths	0	0

*As defined by Alberta Health

Case count by day



Active cases per 100k

August 4, 2020	Active cases	Active per 100k
Strathcona County	9	9.1
Edmonton	287	28.1
Calgary	340	25.2
Alberta	1146	26.0 (calculated)

Open	Low level of risk, no additional measures
Watch	At least 10 cases and over 50 per 100K but no additional measures
Enhanced	Risk levels require enhanced public health measures



Alberta Health

- Key measures

August 4, 2020	Alberta	Edmonton Health Zone
Active hospital beds (COVID-19)	75	25
Hospital bed capacity	8,483	3,020
Active ICU beds (COVID-19)	20	8
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.

Dr. Tam – August 4, 2020

Tam said one of the busiest areas of planning for officials is the reopening of schools in September, for which, she said, the Public Health Agency of Canada will be publishing detailed guidelines later this week.

The guidelines will include a recommendation that children over the age of 10 be required to wear masks, said Tam, in French. Extra consideration should be given for children under the age of 10, she said.

"The recommendations will undergo evolution as the evidence changes and we'll also have to see what happens as we understand transmission in different age groups and what happens in schools." said Tam. "We may have to adapt this recommendation as we go along."

(CBC, August 4)

Dr. Hinshaw - 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.

Dr. Hinshaw – August 4, 2020

As part of a number of new school safety measures to combat COVID-19, mask use for Grade 4 to 12 students, and all school staff, will be mandatory when school returns for the 2020-21 year.

“After reviewing the emerging evidence, it is clear that masks can play an important role in limiting the spread of COVID-19. I am not making this updated recommendation lightly, but acting on the best current evidence available. While masks are important, I want to stress that they are only one of the many public health measures in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of students, staff and families.”

Informing decision-making

- Online surveys
 - SCOOP (opt-in survey panel)
 - Gizmo (anonymous general public access)
- Business voice
- Alignment scan: other municipal survey results

Strathcona County survey results



Largest online survey feedback
in County history



Survey open from July 30 –
August 4



7,960
respondents

Survey Gizmo
SCOOP

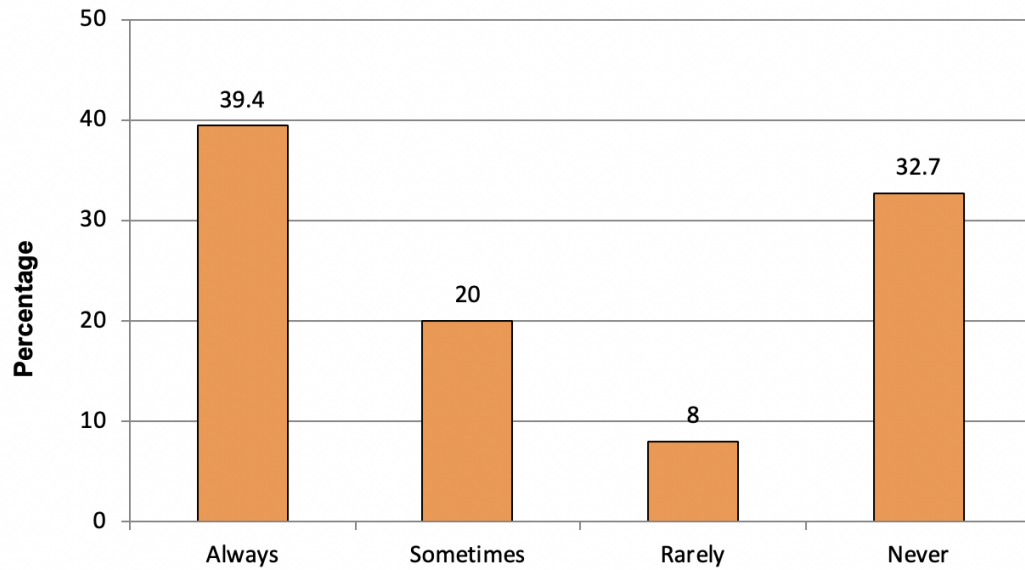


Response
locations:

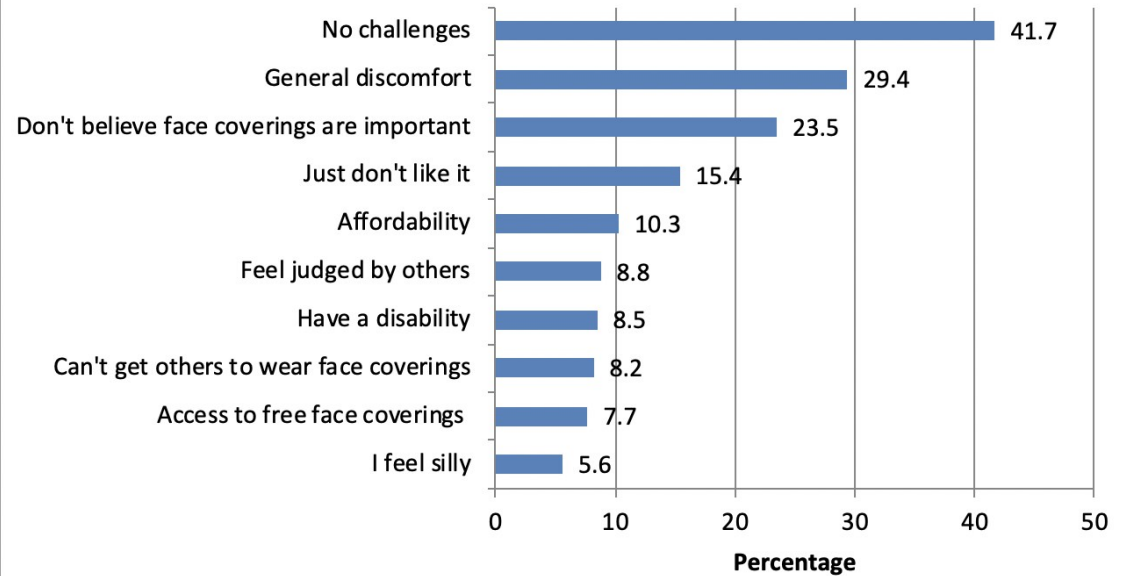
73.3% Sherwood Park
18.8% rural Strathcona
County
8% outside of County

Indoor face covering use

How often do you wear a face covering in an indoor space

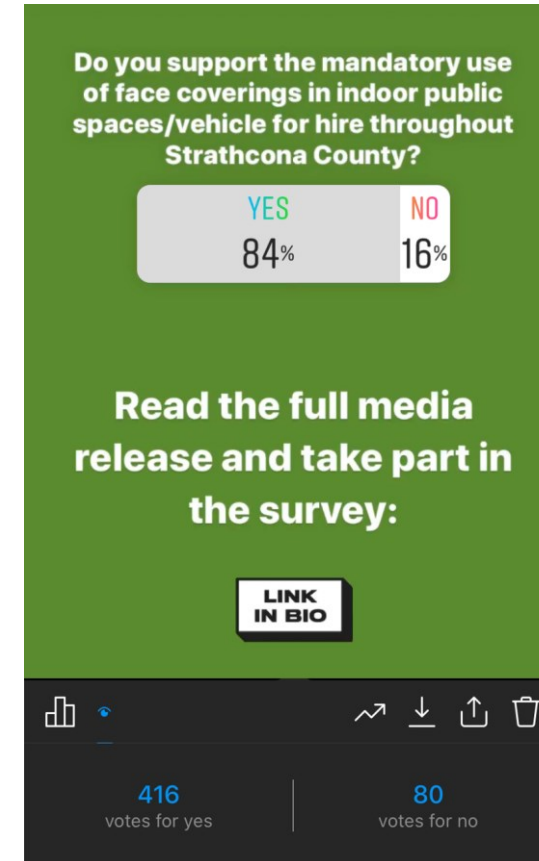
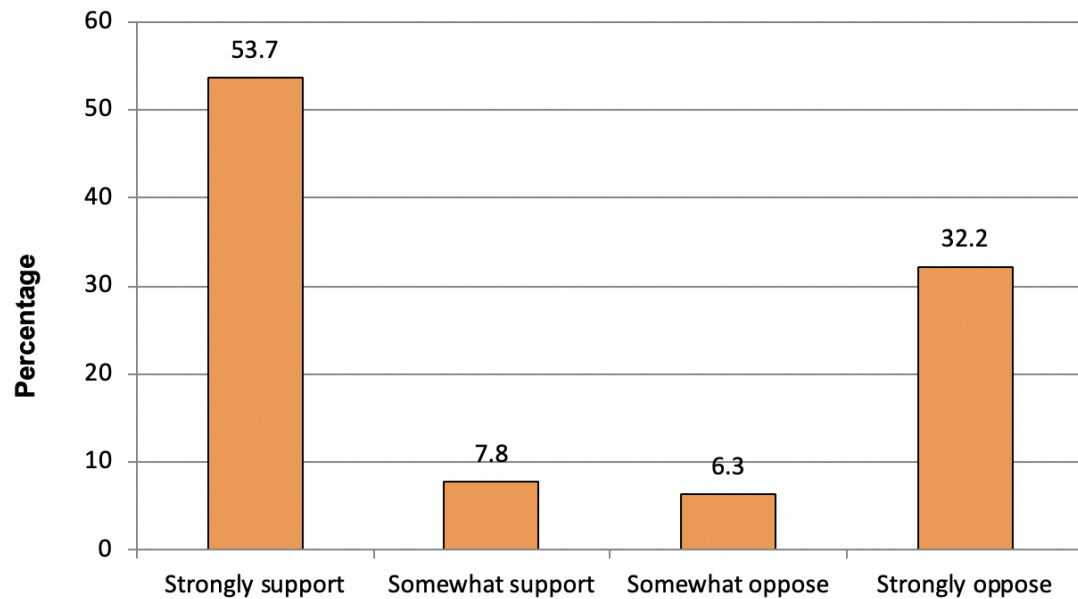


Challenges for using a face covering



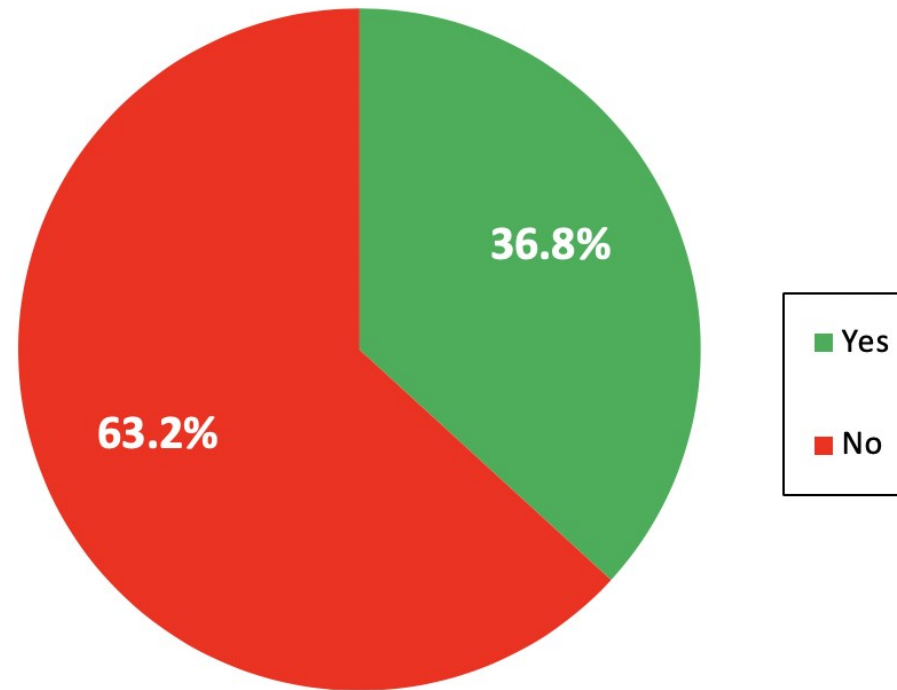
Support for public wearing a face covering

Degree of support for the public wearing a face covering



Local business owner/operator question

Would a mandatory bylaw help enforce people wearing face coverings at their place of business?



Local business

- The Sherwood Park & District Chamber of Commerce recently completed a survey of their chamber members' opinions about face coverings.
- The survey report findings have been shared with Council.

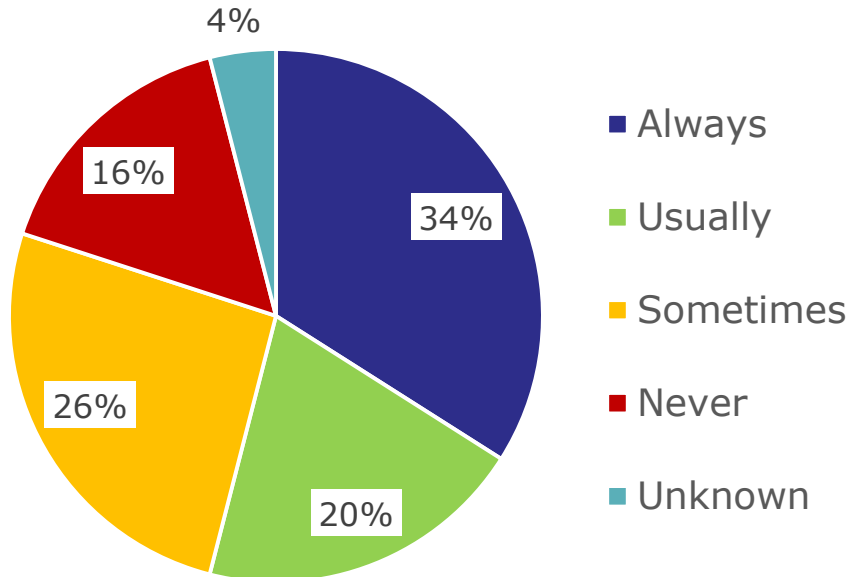
Alignment scan

Personal use of face coverings – survey responses

Calgary

500 responses June 8-14

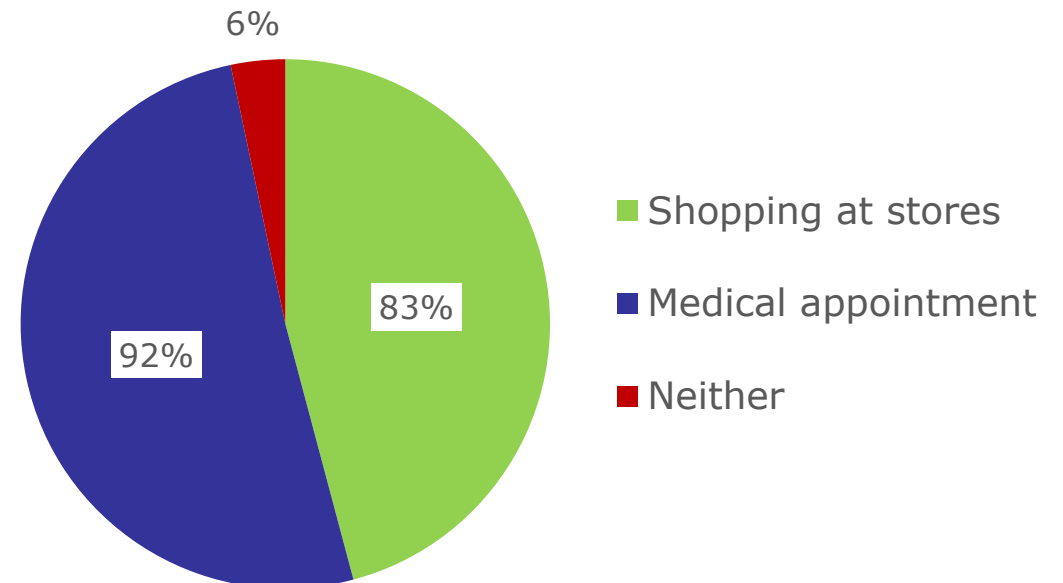
Willingness to wear a face mask in public indoor spaces



Edmonton

6,004 responses July 14-21

Willingness to wear a face mask in specific indoor public spaces



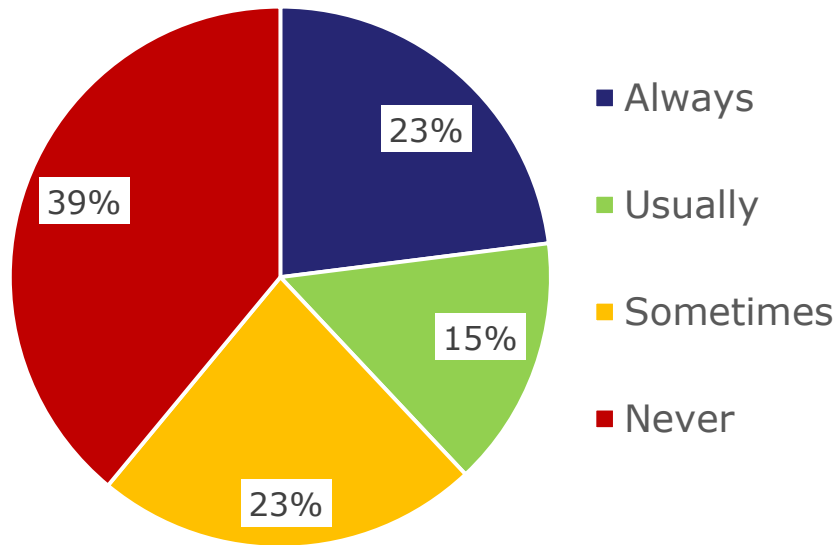
Alignment scan

Personal use of masks – survey responses (continued)

Spruce Grove

5,743 responses July 31-August 4

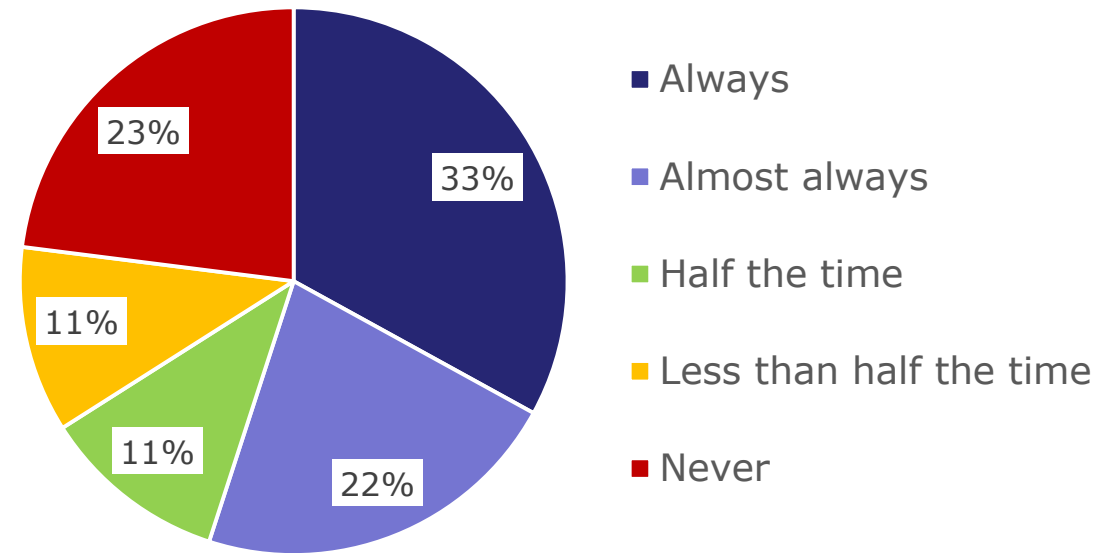
Spruce Grove - willingness to wear a face mask in public indoor spaces



ABACUS Canada-wide panel survey

1500 responses June 26 - 30

Willingness to wear a face mask in public indoor spaces



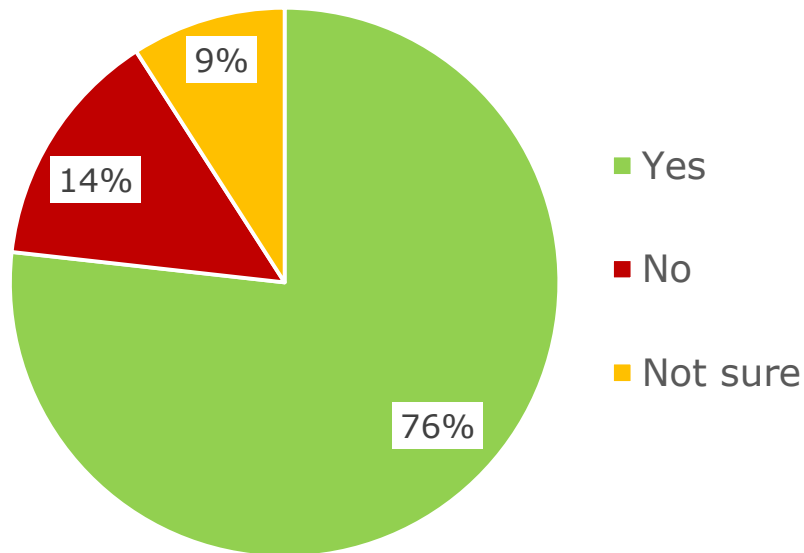
Alignment scan

Mandatory use of face coverings– survey responses

Edmonton

6,004 responses July 14-21

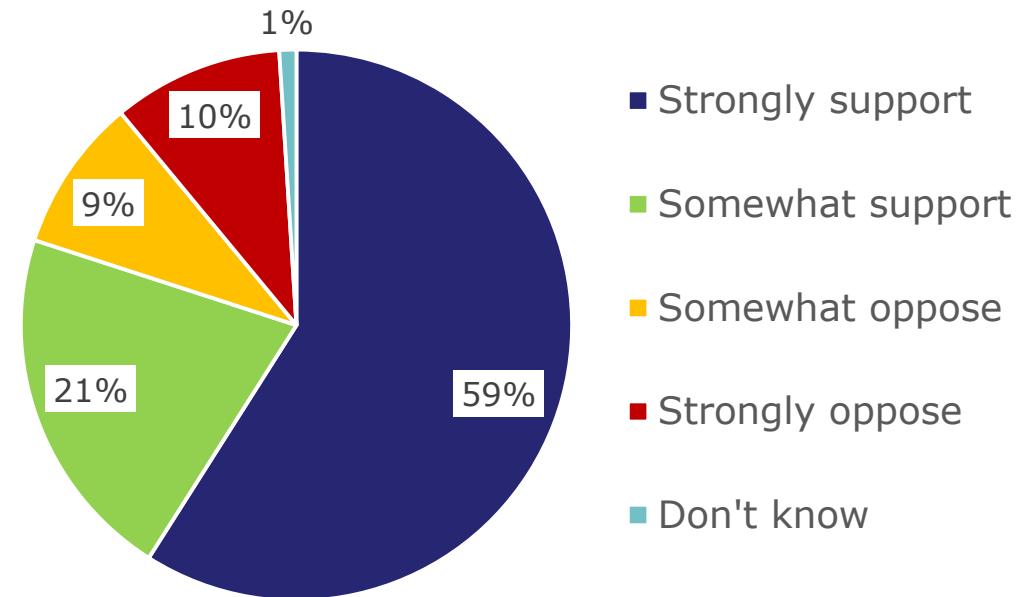
Should wearing a mask be mandatory while visiting any indoor public space?



Calgary

500 responses, July 2-10

To what degree do you support masks being mandatory in indoor public spaces?



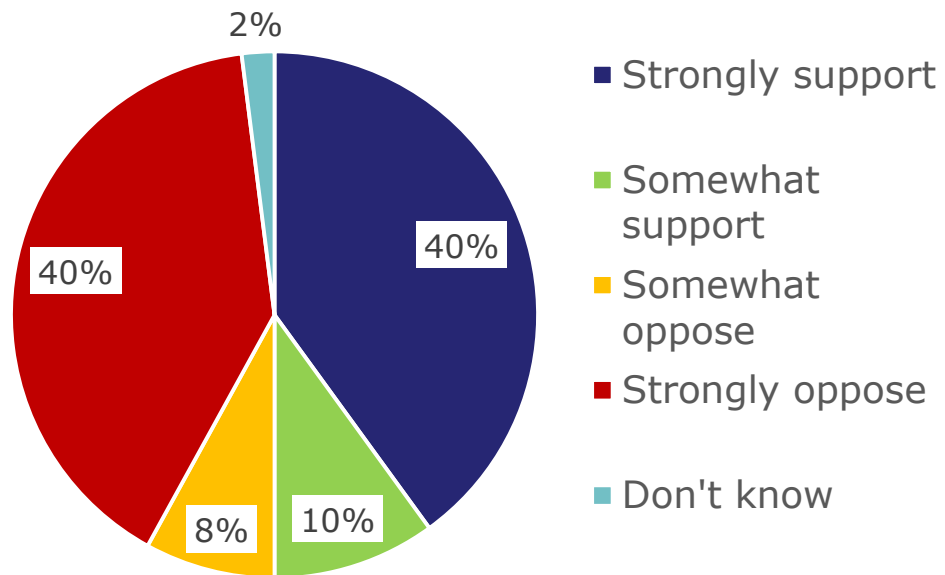
Alignment scan

Mandatory use of face coverings– survey responses (continued)

Spruce Grove

5,473 responses July 31-August 4

To what degree do you support masks being mandatory in indoor public spaces?



Ministerial association

- Discussion was held with Ministerial
- They appreciated the opportunity to provide input and we are grateful for that input
- Willing to assist by spreading the word
- Are looking primarily for clarity

PROPOSED BYLAW

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).
- This type of bylaw fits under 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

Mandatory Face Coverings

- If passed, the proposed bylaw would come into effect August 17, 2020 and be automatically repealed December 31, 2020.
- The proposed bylaw provides that persons must wear a face covering (e.g. a face mask) while in a public vehicle or while in an indoor, enclosed, or substantially enclosed public place:
 - s. 4 A person must wear a face covering at all times while in a public vehicle or while in an indoor, enclosed, or substantially enclosed public place

Exceptions

- persons under the age of 2;
- persons who are unable to place, use, or remove a face covering without assistance;
- persons unable to wear a face covering due to a mental or physical concern or limitation, or a protected ground under the *Alberta Human Rights Act*, RSA 2000, c A-25.5, as may be amended;
- persons consuming food or drink in designated seating areas or as part of a religious or spiritual ceremony;

Exceptions

- persons engaged in physical activities, water activities or the paid supervision of water activities, or attending within a sauna or steam room;
- persons providing care or assistance to a person with a disability where a face covering would hinder that caregiving or assistance; and
- persons engaging in services that require the temporary removal of a face covering.

Non-Application

- The requirement to wear a face covering does not apply to the following places:
 - Schools and other educational facilities
 - Hospitals and health-care facilities
 - Child care facilities

Non-Application

- Areas exclusively accessed or used by the public place's employee's or a public vehicle operator, provided that physical barriers or physical distancing practices are implemented between any person not required to wear a face covering by operation of this exception and any other person.

Enforceability

- Proposed bylaw includes the authority to impose a fine of not less than \$100 for contravention
- However, approach will be education over enforcement
- During lock down volume of calls was down overall, no longer the case
 - Potential to detract from other priority areas
- Difficult to assess the legitimate exemptions, so again approach would be primarily education based

Benefits

- Canada's and Alberta's Medical Officers of Health support face coverings as an effective mitigation measure to curb transmission
- 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

Regional activity

- Edmonton
 - Bylaw effective August 1
 - Exemption – children under age of 2
- St. Albert
 - Bylaw effective August 8
 - Exemption under the age of 10
- Fort Saskatchewan
 - Bylaw triggered based on a threshold of 10 or more
 - Exemption under the age of 10

Regional activity

- Beaumont
 - Looking at a Bylaw August 10
- Leduc
 - Survey complete
- Spruce Grove
 - Looking at a Bylaw on August 17

M'ask yourself ...

**How can I help protect myself,
my family and others?**

Wearing a non-medical mask
(face covering) is now required
in all County facilities and
indoor spaces, including transit
buses. Check out our frequently
M'asked questions.

780-464-8111
strathcona.ca/masks




**MY MASK
PROTECTS YOU.
YOUR MASK
PROTECTS ME.**



Alberta Health
Services

Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.



Canada's 100th
Anniversary
2015



ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

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

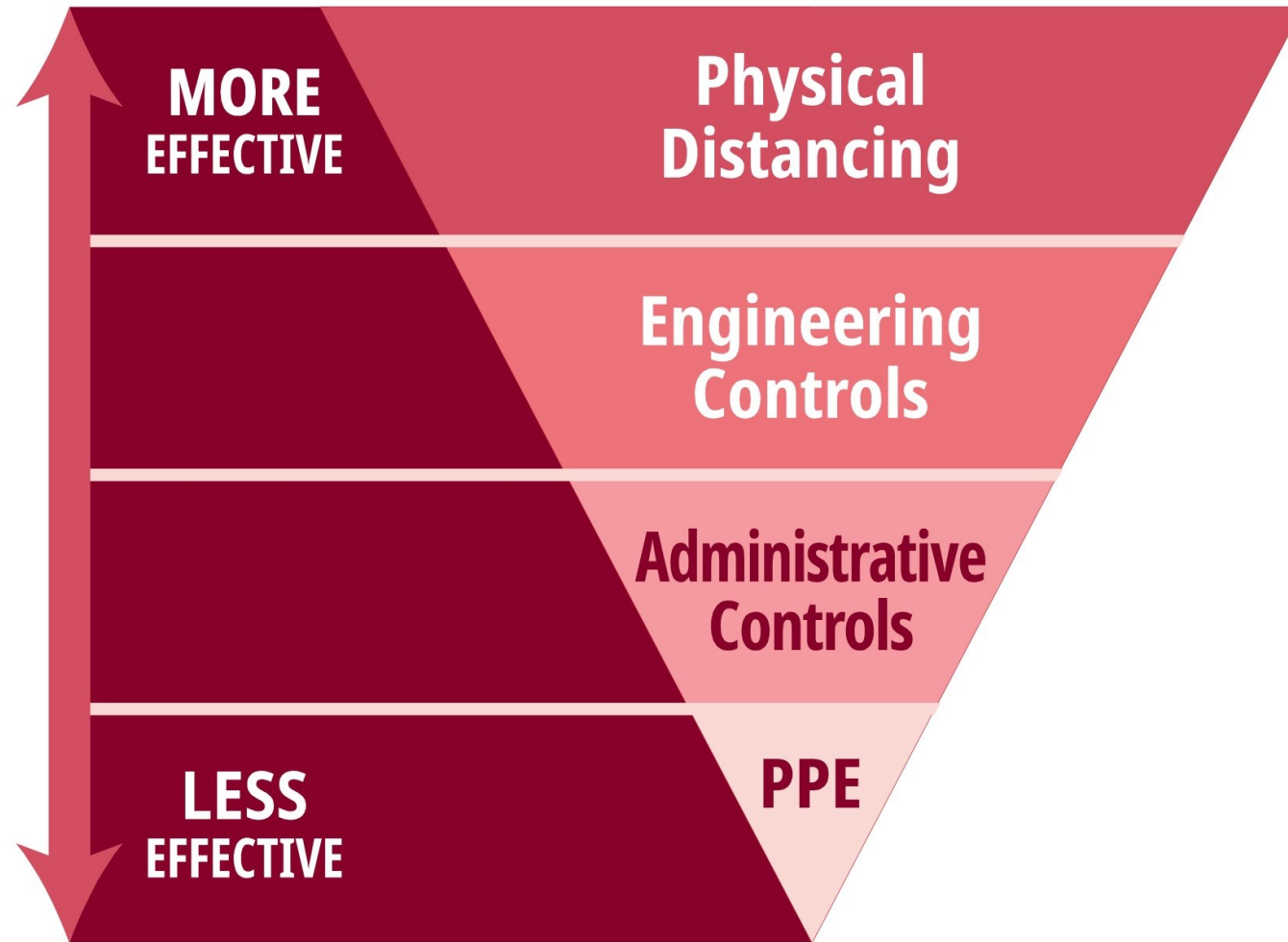
Collaboration

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

Engagement

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

Hierarchy of controls



COVID-19 INFORMATION

HELP RELAUNCH, SAFELY

**Prevention starts with awareness.
Be informed on how you can protect
yourself and others from COVID-19:**

- Isolate if you're feeling sick
- When out, maintain physical distancing of 2 metres
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap
- Cover coughs and sneezes and stay home if you are sick
- Avoid touching your face
- Wear a mask in public places where keeping a distance of 2 metres is difficult

STAY INFORMED

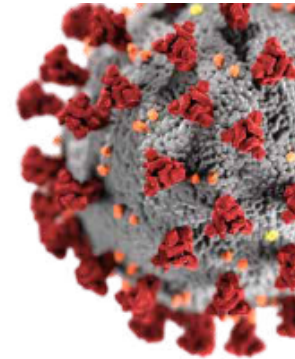
alberta.ca/covid19



Maintaining physical distance is difficult

Face coverings are an extra layer of protection

 Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada



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.

