

OCLA letter: Mandatory face mask policies have no scientific basis, violate civil liberties, and must be rejected

From: [Watson, Jim \(Mayor/Maire\) <Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca)
To: [Joseph Hickey | OCLA <joseph.hickey@ocla.ca>](mailto:joseph.hickey@ocla.ca)
Cc: [Luloff, Matt <Matt.Luloff@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Matt.Luloff@ottawa.ca), [Dudas, Laura <Laura.Dudas@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Laura.Dudas@ottawa.ca), [Harder, Jan <Jan.Harder@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Jan.Harder@ottawa.ca), [Sudds, Jenna <Jenna.Sudds@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Jenna.Sudds@ottawa.ca), [El-Chantiry, Eli <Eli.El-Chantiry@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Eli.El-Chantiry@ottawa.ca), [Gower, Glen <Glen.Gower@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Glen.Gower@ottawa.ca), [Bay Ward / Quartier Baie <bayward@ottawa.ca>](mailto:bayward@ottawa.ca), [Chiarelli, Rick <Rick.Chiarelli@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Rick.Chiarelli@ottawa.ca), [Egli, Keith <Keith.Egli@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Keith.Egli@ottawa.ca), [Deans, Diane <Diane.Deans@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Diane.Deans@ottawa.ca), [Tierney, Timothy <Tim.Tierney@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Tim.Tierney@ottawa.ca), [Fleury, Mathieu <Mathieu.Fleury@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Mathieu.Fleury@ottawa.ca), [RideauRockcliffe Ward <rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca>](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca), [McKenney, Catherine <Catherine.Mckenney@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Catherine.Mckenney@ottawa.ca), [Leiper, Jeff <Jeff.Leiper@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Jeff.Leiper@ottawa.ca), [Brockington, Riley <Riley.Brockington@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Riley.Brockington@ottawa.ca), [Capital Ward <CapitalWard@ottawa.ca>](mailto:CapitalWard@ottawa.ca), [Cloutier, Jean <Jean.Cloutier@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Jean.Cloutier@ottawa.ca), [Darouze, George <George.Darouze@ottawa.ca>](mailto:George.Darouze@ottawa.ca), [Moffatt, Scott <Scott.Moffatt@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Scott.Moffatt@ottawa.ca), [Meehan, Carol Anne <CarolAnne.Meehan@ottawa.ca>](mailto:CarolAnne.Meehan@ottawa.ca), [Hubley, Allan <Allan.Hublely@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Allan.Hublely@ottawa.ca), [Etches, Vera <Vera.Etches@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Vera.Etches@ottawa.ca), [Armbruster, James <James.Armbruster@ottawa.ca>](mailto:James.Armbruster@ottawa.ca)
Subject: RE: OCLA letter: Mandatory face mask policies have no scientific basis, violate civil liberties, and must be rejected
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 2:31 PM
Size: 40 KB

Dear Dr. Hickey and Dr. Rancourt:

This is to confirm that your correspondence of June 29, 2020 has been received by the Mayor's Office and Ottawa Public Health (OPH).

Please be assured that your concerns have been heard regarding the temporary mandatory mask by-law that OPH recommended and that Ottawa City Council enacted on July 15, 2020. As explained in the [report to Council](#), as more businesses and public spaces open and people increase their contacts, the risk of a rapid rise in infections and outbreaks is ever-present. The report also sets out legal justifications for the by-law.

Increasing evidence supports wearing a mask when in enclosed public spaces as an important measure in reducing COVID-19 transmission, while the risk of rising rates of infection continues. The scientific community and public health organizations around the world have concluded that the cumulative weight of evidence supports that face masks lessen the rates of transmission of COVID-19 from wearers. Most agree that face masks work best by reducing the amount of virus that is projected into the air in respiratory micro-droplets from someone who is infected with the virus. Additionally, other community level measures such as physical distancing and hand hygiene should continue to be employed to decrease transmission of COVID-19.

While we respect that you may not necessarily agree with this public health initiative, we trust that you will understand the basis that prompted OPH to recommend that Council enact a by-law.

Sincerely,

Jim Watson
Mayor
City of Ottawa

JW/ps

From: Joseph Hickey | OCLA <joseph.hickey@ocla.ca>
Sent: June 29, 2020 10:31 PM
To: [Etches, Vera <Vera.Etches@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Vera.Etches@ottawa.ca); [healthsante <healthsante@ottawa.ca>](mailto:healthsante@ottawa.ca); [Watson, Jim \(Mayor/Maire\) <Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca)
Cc: [Luloff, Matt <Matt.Luloff@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Matt.Luloff@ottawa.ca); [Dudas, Laura <Laura.Dudas@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Laura.Dudas@ottawa.ca); [Harder, Jan <Jan.Harder@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Jan.Harder@ottawa.ca); [Sudds, Jenna <Jenna.Sudds@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Jenna.Sudds@ottawa.ca); [El-Chantiry, Eli <Eli.El-Chantiry@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Eli.El-Chantiry@ottawa.ca); [Gower, Glen <Glen.Gower@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Glen.Gower@ottawa.ca); [Bay Ward / Quartier Baie <bayward@ottawa.ca>](mailto:bayward@ottawa.ca); [Chiarelli, Rick <Rick.Chiarelli@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Rick.Chiarelli@ottawa.ca); [Egli, Keith <Keith.Egli@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Keith.Egli@ottawa.ca); [Deans, Diane <Diane.Deans@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Diane.Deans@ottawa.ca); [Tierney, Timothy <Tim.Tierney@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Tim.Tierney@ottawa.ca); [Fleury, Mathieu <Mathieu.Fleury@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Mathieu.Fleury@ottawa.ca); [RideauRockcliffe Ward <rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca>](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca); [McKenney, Catherine <Catherine.Mckenney@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Catherine.Mckenney@ottawa.ca); [Leiper, Jeff <Jeff.Leiper@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Jeff.Leiper@ottawa.ca); [Brockington, Riley <Riley.Brockington@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Riley.Brockington@ottawa.ca); [Capital Ward <CapitalWard@ottawa.ca>](mailto:CapitalWard@ottawa.ca); [Cloutier, Jean <Jean.Cloutier@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Jean.Cloutier@ottawa.ca); [Darouze, George <George.Darouze@ottawa.ca>](mailto:George.Darouze@ottawa.ca); [Moffatt, Scott <Scott.Moffatt@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Scott.Moffatt@ottawa.ca); [Meehan, Carol Anne <CarolAnne.Meehan@ottawa.ca>](mailto:CarolAnne.Meehan@ottawa.ca); [Hubley, Allan <Allan.Hublely@ottawa.ca>](mailto:Allan.Hublely@ottawa.ca)
Subject: OCLA letter: Mandatory face mask policies have no scientific basis, violate civil liberties, and must be rejected

CAUTION: This email originated from an External Sender. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source.

ATTENTION : Ce courriel provient d'un expéditeur externe. Ne cliquez sur aucun lien et n'ouvrez pas de pièce jointe, excepté si vous connaissez l'expéditeur.



Ontario
Civil Liberties
Association

Dear Dr. Etches, Mayor Watson, and Members of Ottawa City Council,

Please find attached a letter from the Ontario Civil Liberties Association (OCLA) re: "Mandatory face mask policies have no scientific basis, violate civil liberties, and must be rejected".

Please provide us with your responses so that we can inform our members and the public.

Yours truly,

Joseph Hickey, PhD
Executive Director
Ontario Civil Liberties Association (OCLA) <http://ocla.ca>
613-252-6148 (c)
joseph.hickey@ocla.ca

This e-mail originates from the City of Ottawa e-mail system. Any distribution, use or copying of this e-mail or the information it contains by other than the intended recipient(s) is unauthorized. Thank you.

Le présent courriel a été expédié par le système de courriels de la Ville d'Ottawa. Toute distribution, utilisation ou reproduction du courriel ou des renseignements qui s'y trouvent par une personne autre que son destinataire prévu est interdite. Je vous remercie de votre collaboration.