

# Community: What You Need To Know

## North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Instructions About Face Coverings<sup>1</sup>

Effective Friday, July 24, 2020, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Health Unit) will require the use of face coverings<sup>2</sup> in certain enclosed public spaces (businesses, organizations, and services) and transportation in our district.

1. Owners/operators of enclosed public spaces and transportation must have a face covering **policy** that is put into effect using their best efforts. This includes posting signs and promoting the use of face coverings to protect others from COVID-19 spread to any person<sup>3</sup> who enters the premises.
2. Certain exemptions for the face covering requirement apply, such as:
  - age (children under the age of two years or under the age of five years either by birth age or mental development and cannot be persuaded)
  - health or ability
  - religious officiants
  - staff working within or behind a physical barrier (e.g. plexiglass barrier) *provided physical distancing of two metres can be maintained among staff* or in an area of an enclosed public space that is not designated for public access and where physical distancing of two metres **can** be maintained.

### No proof of exemption is required.

3. The strength of enforcement is up to the local business, organization, or service. Wearing a face covering is an easy way to protect others around you. Although a business, organization, or service has the right to deny entry to their premises, the policy regarding the use of face coverings indoors should be used as a means to educate people on face covering use. **We encourage our community to be 'COVID kind' and understand that not everyone can wear a face covering safely and may need accommodation and understanding.**

These additional public health measures remain in effect in **ALL** settings:

- Ensure physical distancing of two metres;
- Use face coverings if a two metres distance cannot be maintained;
- Isolate yourself when you have symptoms and get tested for COVID-19;
- Practice cough and sneeze etiquette; and
- Promote hand washing and make alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with minimum alcohol concentration of 60%) available at all entrances and exits.

## Face coverings protect others. Let's work together to keep safe from COVID-19.

See Health Unit Website for [Frequently Asked Questions & Answers](#) about Facial Coverings







<sup>1</sup>Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020, previously under the [Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act \(EMCPA\)](#) and related Regulations: see letter from Medical Officer of Health, dated July 17, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> A **face covering** is a cloth face covering, or other face covering with *preferably* two layers of material that securely covers the nose, mouth, and chin and is in contact with the surrounding face without gapping in order to contain coughs, sneezes and respiratory spit and spray of the person wearing the face covering. Face coverings such as a bandana, scarf, cloth, niqab or burka are not designed to filter air and do not have a number of layers; however they are a better alternative if a face covering is not available. (Where possible, a cloth mask should be worn underneath a head covering to ensure best fit against the face.)

<sup>3</sup>A **person** means any customer, client, patron, staff member or visitor, who enters the premises.

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