**MASK POLICY (page 1)**

Effective July 7, 2020, Ottawa Public Health issued a direction that members of the public are required to wear a mask while in Enclosed Public Spaces. This rental building is not an Enclosed Public Space.

However, **we urge everyone in the building, to wear a mask while in any indoor common area of the building including the lobby, elevators, hallways, garbage room and laundry room.** That includes tenants, guests, and delivery people.

The mask can be a cloth Mask, a disposable non-medical Mask, or another face covering (e.g. bandana, scarf or cloth). There are some people who cannot wear a mask. For details, see page 2.

**Why should you wear a mask?**

Wearing a cloth mask helps to trap COVID-19 if you are sick, and protects people who are around you. Since some people who are infected with COVID-19 may have the virus and not know it, whenever people are going out and may come into close contact with other people, they should wear a mask. When other people wear a mask, they are helping to protect you not just themselves.

Mask wearing cannot guarantee protection from COVID-19, and should not replace proven measures such as frequent handwashing, avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands, practicing physical distancing and staying at home if you are sick.

**MASK POLICY (page 2)**

**People who cannot wear a mask**

It is also important to note that not everyone can safely wear a mask. Masks should NOT be placed on:

* Children under two years of age, or children under the age of five years either chronologically or developmentally who refuse to wear a mask and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver
* Individuals with medical conditions rendering them unable to safely wear a mask, including breathing difficulties or cognitive difficulties
* Anyone who has trouble breathing
* Anyone who is unable to remove the mask without help
* Anyone who is unconscious or incapacitated

**Special needs for people who are hard of hearing**

There may be situations where someone who is deaf or hard of hearing may require a mask wearer to remove their mask or face covering to speak to them. We remind anyone removing their mask or face covering to follow safe handling procedures and to keep a distance of 2 metres (6 feet) away from others.

For additional information and tips about masks, please visit: <https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/masks.aspx>

OR google search “Ottawa Public Health” masks

**General COVID-19 safety tips**

**To protect yourself and others from COVID-19, almost everyone should:**

* **Wear a mask in common areas including the hallways, the elevators, the lobby, the garbage room and the laundry room**
* Stay home as much as possible
* Avoid groups of people and crowded spaces
* Maintain physical distance (at least two metres or six feet) whenever possible
* Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
* When coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with tissues or your sleeve (at the inside of your elbow), and wash your hands immediately afterward.

**Almost everyone must wear a mask on OC Transpo and in any enclosed public area such as a retail store.**

**There are exceptions to the advice to wear a mask for some people with disabilities and for young children.**

For additional information, please visit: https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca