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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
CC: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)
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Date: 11/12/2020 6:21:07 PM
Subject: Memo: Use of Masks in City Facilities
Attachments: Memo - Use of Non-Medical Masks in City Facilities.pdf

Good evening Mayor and Council,

For your information, the attached memo from Andrew Naklicki provides an update on the implementation of Council's direction regarding the use of masks in City facilities.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Andrew.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

MEMORANDUM

November 12, 2020

TO: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager

CC: Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager

FROM: Andrew Naklicki, Chief Human Resources Officer

SUBJECT: Council October 22, 2020 Motion and Directions To Staff Related To Masks

I am pleased to provide an update on the City's actions related to Council's October 22, 2020 Motion and direction to staff related to masks.

As detailed below, I can confirm each component of the motion has been actioned and those actions are as follows:

- A. THAT Council support a "strongly encourage" approach to mask wearing at city facilities for the duration of the COVID-19 response and recovery, and direct staff to enhance messaging and signage to strongly encourage mask wearing.

Following the Council decision on Oct. 22 to strongly encourage mask wearing at City facilities and a subsequent announcement from the Provincial Health Officer that it is an expectation that masks be worn in public spaces, the City enhanced its messaging and signage for public and City staff alike to communicate that the expectation was that masks be worn in public spaces. In addition to updated signage the City also leveraged our digital channels such as Twitter to push the message out broadly into the community. Staff have been provided with messaging and an FAQ to further ensure an awareness for the adherence to Council's motion.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to work with non-profit, health authority or senior government partners, seek donations, or consider city funds, to ensure masks are available at city facilities for those who may not be able to afford them.

City Staff have engaged with a not for profit community based supply hub and agency contacts who reported they have received 300,000 disposable masks and 5,700 cloth mask donations since the start of the pandemic, mostly as a result of the City's Give a Hand campaign. The majority of masks were distributed during the first wave of COVID in spring / early summer.

The increased community awareness of the need to wear masks has resulted in the supply hub distributing on average 3,500 disposable and 200 cloth masks per week to approximately 35-40 community based organizations. While they have inventory, this is needed to supply the growing demand and community needs they serve. Should the City have an emergency supply need they would discuss providing assistance.

Prior to Council motion City staff engaged senior government partners through the EOC and were informed there were not available monies to fund masks.

Based on visits to City facilities in the Downtown Eastside and Downtown South who serve patrons who face barriers to securing their own masks, the City estimates up to 11,000 masks will be needed weekly for these communities. Masks are being supplied for facility users as needed to ensure for the protection of patrons and staff alike.

Most of the public are wearing their own masks when attending other City facilities. Considering this, the City is not broadly promoting the availability of masks; however, have ensured a supply is available at each public facing operation. The City is making masks available as needed to ensure any citizen is able to access City services and able to wear a mask as expected.

Based on an estimate of 11,000 masks per week for Social and Housing Operations and 4,000 a week for all other City operations the weekly cost is approximately \$6,000 / week plus tax. The City has ensured for supply and is funding the cost

- C. THAT Council direct staff to ensure city staff are well supported and provided with appropriate PPE to keep them protected in their places of work, particularly given variation on the types of work and ranges of interaction with the public that City Staff are engaged in during this pandemic.

The City is committed to the health and safety of all City staff. City staff are well supported and provided with appropriate PPE and training to keep them protected in their places of work. The City is also ensuring ongoing in person and virtual mental health support for City staff as maybe required. As an employer the City meets or exceeds public health and WorkSafeBC requirements and complies with Ministerial and Public Health Orders. The City's approach included:

- Ongoing engagement with:
 - Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees; and
 - Unions that represent City employees;
- development and implementation of site specific Covid safety plans that adhere to regulatory requirements and address PPE needs and training;
- ensuring for adequate PPE supply to meet operational needs
- PPE usage and inventory monitoring and inventory ordering set for auto-replenishment;
- the requirement vendors stock PPEs locally; and
- maintenance of an emergency PPE stock.

D. THAT Council direct staff to develop an implementation plan in the event Public Health Authorities recommend moving to a “mandatory mask” approach, and that Council support that change if it is the recommendation of public health.

The City developed and implemented a comprehensive plan to address Council’s Motion to strongly encourage mask wearing at City facilities and the subsequent announcement from the Provincial Health Officer that it is an expectation that masks be worn in public spaces.

The plan is applicable to the current Council Motion and can easily be converted to address changes by Public Health Authorities if there is a move to a “mandatory mask” approach. In the event of a change to mandatory mask wearing current Safety Plans, signage, FAQ’s and messaging would be updated and communicated to reflect the mandatory requirement. The Public Health Order issued would be reviewed and other changes as may be required would be acted upon and implemented as a priority.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Andrew Naklicki
Chief Human Resources Officer