



REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: March 28, 2022

FROM: CAO's Office
DATE: March 22, 2022
SUBJECT: Recovery Update – March 28, 2022
LOCATION: Town-wide
WARD: Town-wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the minutes of the COVID-19 Recovery Committee meeting of March 22, 2022, attached as Appendix A, be received.
2. That the following recommendation of the COVID-19 Recovery Committee be approved:

That Members of Council and staff transition back to the Council Chamber for the April 25, 2022 Council meeting, and that public attendance be further considered at a future Emergency Control Group meeting.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- On March 11, 2022, the mayor terminated Oakville's Declaration of Emergency, which was issued two years ago at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the Provincial Government and Halton Region terminated their emergency declarations on February 23, 2022 and March 11, 2022, respectively.
- The Province lifted the mask mandate in many indoor public settings effective March 21, 2022. The mandate remains in place for certain higher-risk settings, such as transit, until April 27, 2022.
- The COVID-19 Recovery Committee met on March 22, 2022 and received a report from the Emergency Control Group (ECG) that outlined information and recommendations resulting from the further elimination of provincial public health measures.

- Under the town's Emergency Plan, the recommendations and actions of the Recovery Committee are subject to Council approval.

BACKGROUND:

On March 19, 2022, Halton Region repealed its Mask By-law 47-20 effective March 21, 2022 to align with provincial direction. The town's mask-wearing procedure remained active as long as Halton's mask by-law was in effect.

The town has consistently followed the advice of public health throughout the pandemic. As a result of Halton repealing its mask by-law and the town's procedure no longer being in effect, masks are no longer required to enter town facilities, with the exception of the public area of the transit facility and town buses.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

As a result of the Province's actions, the Emergency Control Group (ECG) considered the following:

1. Impacts on town by-laws resulting from the termination of the declaration of emergency; and
2. Timing of the return to in-person Council and Committee meetings.

Memoranda regarding these matters were considered by the Recovery Committee at its meeting of March 22, 2022.

With respect to town by-laws impacted by the termination of the emergency, the Recovery Committee received information that during the pandemic, nine by-laws were passed that terminate once the town's declaration of emergency no longer exists. Three of these by-laws were not intended to continue after the emergency; another four by-laws have had the necessary authorizations approved in other by-laws. However, two of these by-laws need to be addressed going forward and will be presented to Council in April of 2022. These are the authorization of electronic meetings and hearings of the Property Standards Committee and the extension or suspension of model year restrictions for taxicabs.

Regarding the return to in-person Council meetings, the Recovery Committee approved a hybrid model where Members of Council and staff can transition back to the Council Chamber for the April 25, 2022 Council meeting. Members of Council may attend a meeting in person or remotely; to ensure all Members are equally visible in this hybrid format, all Members will continue to use Zoom and appear on the windowpane regardless of in-person or virtual attendance.

Regarding the return of the public to in-person council meetings, given the current construction underway in the north atrium at town hall, the Recovery Committee resolution further recommends that in person public attendance be considered at a

future date. The public gallery will continue to be available via Youtube and registered delegates can participate by electronic means as per the Procedure By-Law during this time.

Supporting information received by the Recovery Committee is attached in Appendix B.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

Members of the public are no longer required to wear a mask to enter town facilities, with the exception of the transit facility and town buses. The timing for in person attendance at Council meetings will be determined at a later date when construction in the north atrium concludes.

(B) FINANCIAL

These specific actions have no additional financial impacts.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

There is no impact on other departments or users.

(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS

This supports the accountable government key area of focus of Council's Strategic Plan.

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

These specific actions have no climate action impacts.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Recovery Committee Minutes

Appendix B: Recovery Committee Agenda and supporting documents

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Approved and submitted by:

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