

## Deferral Report – COVID-19 Written Update including Masking Requirement in Civic Facilities

### ISSUE

The Administration is requesting a one-week deferral to provide an operational update as requested by City Council, pending additional information.

### RECOMMENDATION

That consideration of a report from the Administration be deferred to the March 28, 2022, Regular Business meeting of City Council.

### BACKGROUND

A special meeting of City Council was held on February 8, 2022, to address pending rescission of provincial Public Health Orders related to Covid-19. At that meeting the following resolutions were passed:

1. That City Council remove the Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination or Negative Test Requirements for City of Saskatoon facilities, as approved at its October 8, 2021, Special Meeting, when the Government of Saskatchewan rescinds the “Public Health Order Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination or Negative Test.”;
2. That upon the rescission of the existing “Public Health Order Mandatory Isolation and Face Covering” by the Government of Saskatchewan, City Council continue the requirement, as approved at its August 30, 2021, Regular Business Meeting, that all persons accessing all City facilities, including Saskatoon Transit, wear a face mask in the manner and form as directed under the rescinded public health order.;
3. That the Administration report back monthly to Governance and Priorities Committee starting in March 2022, with a written COVID update that includes a recommendation on whether or not to continue the requirement of face masking for all persons accessing all City facilities.;
4. That the Administration report back about resources required to increase enforcement or conflict resolution support on Transit relating to face covering use in advance of the rescission of the existing “Public Health Order Mandatory Isolation and Face Covering” by the Government of Saskatchewan. Please include potential use of commissioners, Transit Supervisors, private security companies, and/or if SPS can play a role of some kind. The report should include associated financial impact for all options. Please ensure that transit operators, ATU, and bus Riders of Saskatoon are consulted for the report. Consideration should be given for identified problematic routes, potential

enforcement through transit terminals, and potential rotation of enforcement personal on random transit routes.; and

5. That the City of Saskatoon continue to have masks available to riders on Transit buses.

Follow up reporting as requested was completed at the February 22, 2022, Governance and Priorities Committee, with the following resolutions subsequently made at the February 28, 2022, Council meeting:

1. That mask enforcement be implemented per Option 4 as outlined in the report of the General Manager, Transportation and Construction Division dated February 22, 2022; and
2. That operational updates regarding rates of compliance and negative interactions related to masking on Transit be provided to members of City Council weekly beginning in March until mandatory masking is lifted. That these updates be provided in whatever manner is most suitable to the Administration.

### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

Reporting on resolution 3 from the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting has been directed to begin starting at the March 21, 2022, Governance and Priorities Committee meeting; however, based on rapidly changing information and an expectation that more fulsome information will be available provincially for the March 28, 2022, Council meeting, Administration is requesting a deferral of this update for one week until that date. Alongside this deferral request, Administration will also provide a verbal update associated with this report at the March 21, 2022, Governance and Priorities Committee meeting.

As the two items are intertwined, it is also intended that an update on protocols for the scheduled return to in-person Council/Committee meetings in April be provided at the same meeting of Council, however Administration is also able to answer questions as may arise at this meeting.

### **Report Approval**

Written and Approved by: Adam Tittlemore, City Clerk

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