

MEMORANDUM



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

DATE July 29, 2020

TO Priests, Deacons, Parish Offices, Safety Coordinators

FROM Fr. Wilbert Chin Jon

SUBJECT Temporary Face Coverings Bylaw – CHURCHES IN THE CITY OF CALGARY AND THE TOWN OF BANFF

In the City of Calgary and the Town of Banff, everyone who enters our churches, parish offices, and auxiliary facilities such as parish halls will be required to wear a face covering/mask, with some exceptions. Please post the face covering/mask display signage at entry points as soon as possible.

Banff: effective Friday, July 31, 2020

Calgary: effective Saturday, August 1, 2020

(See adaptations to the Diocesan Guidelines on page 4.)

City of Calgary

Under the bylaw, business operators and owners are required to [display signage](#) in public entryways.

Exceptions to the face coverings bylaw include:

- *Children under 2 years of age*
- *People with underlying medical conditions or disabilities inhibiting their ability to wear a face covering*
- *People who are unable to place, use or remove a face covering safely without assistance*
- *People who are eating or drinking at public premises that offers food or beverage services*
- *People engaging in an athletic or fitness activity*
- *People who are caregiving for or accompanying a person with a disability where wearing a face covering would hinder the accommodation of the person's disability (for example, the ability to lip read)*
- *People who have temporarily removed their face covering where doing so is necessary to provide or receive a service (for example, a visit to the dentist)*

Please note: Proof is not required if someone has an exception. Businesses are also not expected to deny services as not everyone is required to wear a face covering. However, businesses or operators can choose to deny service under their policies.

Failure to wear a face covering where required or failure to display prescribed signage can result in a penalty of \$100 - \$200.

(Note: The fine for failure to wear a face covering is being lowered to \$50 according to news reports – July 29, 2020. This has not been reflected on the City’s website and documents at the time of this memorandum’s release.)

Are face shields considered a face covering?

The bylaw defines face coverings that inclusively cover the mouth, nose and chin, ensuring a barrier that limits the transmission of infectious respiratory droplets. A face shield only qualifies under the bylaw if it wraps around the face and chin, fully covering the mouth, nose and chin.

Will individuals need to wear a face covering if physical distancing can be achieved?

Yes. Physical distancing in indoor public spaces is inconsistent and unpredictable and part of why this temporary bylaw is necessary. The bylaw is written in a manner that makes it easy for citizens to understand and easy to achieve compliance.

SOURCE: <https://www.calgary.ca/content/dam/www/csps/abs/documents/bylaws-by-topic/Face-Coverings-Bylaw-Business-Operator-Guide.pdf>

Town of Banff

In an effort to contain the COVID-19 spread and protect the health, safety and well-being of residents and visitors to the Town of Banff, non-medical masks will be mandatory within enclosed public spaces as well as within the Town’s pedestrian zone of the 100 and 200 Blocks of Banff Avenue and Caribou Street effective noon on July 31, 2020.

*To ensure compliance within the Town, bylaw officers will be monitoring, and anyone found not wearing a mask in the required areas may be subject to a \$150 fine. **Those who are exempt from this bylaw are:***

- *A child who is younger than two (2) years of age, or a child who is under five (5) years of age chronologically or developmentally and who refuses to wear a mask and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver*
- *Anyone with a medical condition, including breathing or cognitive difficulties, or a disability, that prevents them from safely wearing a mask*
- *Anyone who is unable to put on or remove their mask without the assistance of another person*
- *Anyone who is hearing impaired, or communicating with someone who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication*
- *Anyone who needs to temporarily remove their mask, provided they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from any persons who are not members of the same household or cohort, for the purposes of:*
 - *Receiving services that require the removal of their mask*
 - *Actively engaging in athletic or fitness activity in an establishment such as a sports facility, sports club, gym, yoga studio, or other similar establishments*

- *Consuming food or drink; or*
- *An emergency or medical purpose*
- *Outdoor spaces that are not included in the Pedestrian Zone of the 100 and 200 Blocks of Banff Avenue and Caribou Street*

Public Spaces That Require Masks

- *Public spaces that now require masks include, but are not limited to:*
- *Restaurants, cafés, cafeterias, and outdoor patios associated with these establishments;*
- *Retail establishments including exterior merchandise displays;*
- *Shopping malls or similar structures that contain multiple places of businesses;*
- *Grocery stores;*
- *Churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, or other places of worship;*
- *Libraries, museums, art galleries, recreational facilities, cinemas, theatres, concert venues, special event venues, convention centres, or other similar entertainment, cultural, or leisure facilities;*
- *Common areas of sports facilities, sports clubs, gyms, yoga studios, or other similar establishments, such as lobbies, elevators, and locker rooms/ changing rooms;*
- *Common areas of hotels, motels, and other short-term rentals, such as lobbies, elevators, meeting rooms or other common use facilities;*
- *Health and wellness facilities and personal services facilities;*
- *Temporary facilities, such as construction trailers and temporary sales offices;*
- *Municipal facilities, including Town Hall, and any community centre, cultural, arts or leisure centre, recreational or sporting facility, parks building, client service centre or indoor parking facility; and,*
- *Other businesses, organizations and places that are permitted to operate in accordance with the Government of Alberta's Relaunch Strategy.*

SOURCE: <https://banff.ca/COVIDmasks>

Adaptations to the Diocesan Guidelines for Churches in Calgary & Banff

During Mass

- All staff, volunteers, and Mass attendees are required to wear face coverings/masks throughout the entirety of the Mass. The only time the face covering/mask is temporarily removed is when consuming Holy Communion to the side of the Communion line. All who receive Communion must wear masks.
- Priests are required to wear face coverings/masks before Mass, during the distribution of Holy Communion, and after the final blessing.
- Concelebration with priests, not of one's cohort (Cohort = Pastor & Associate Pastor living in the same rectory), is discouraged at this time. Except for when the lector is at the ambo, the priest must be alone in the sanctuary.
- Lectors are permitted to remove their face covering/mask when proclaiming/reading at the ambo. Note: Refrain from touching the microphone.
- Since the dispensation from the Sunday Obligation still applies, anyone who has difficulty and issues with wearing a mask may want to consider staying home and staying safe at this time.

Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Penance, Marriage, and Anointing of the Sick

Priests must wear face coverings/masks when celebrating the Sacraments which will put them in close proximity to the people.

Parish Office Staff

Parish staff must wear a face covering/mask when in common areas.

- A face covering/mask may not be necessary when inside an office room alone with a door.
- A face covering/mask may not be necessary when behind a glass/plexi-glass barrier and alone on the office side of the barrier.

Parish Gatherings & In-Person Meetings

All are required to wear face coverings/masks when inside our church buildings.

Resources on the Face Coverings/Masks

<https://www.alberta.ca/masks.aspx>

Prescribed Signage

<https://www.calgary.ca/content/dam/www/csps/abs/documents/bylaws-by-topic/Mandatory-Mask-Temporary-Bylaw-8x10-Sign.PDF>



**All persons must wear a
face covering in indoor public
premises and in public vehicles.**

The City of Calgary Bylaw 26M2020



Exceptions include children under two years of age, or persons with an underlying medical condition or disability which inhibits their ability to wear a face covering.

Visit [calgary.ca/covid19](https://www.calgary.ca/covid19) for more information.

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City of Calgary Facebook Posts on the Bylaw



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As we approach the implementation of mandatory face coverings in public indoor spaces and public vehicles on Aug. 1, we want to remind Calgarians to be understanding of those who are not wearing a mask.

Of course, everyone who can wear a face covering should do so to help protect each other. But not all disabilities are visible. And the reason for the inability to wear a mask is not always obvious. Please be kind to our community and don't presume.

Learn more about the bylaw, how it will work and what the exemptions are: <https://www.calgary.ca/.../covid-19-city-of-calgary-mask-byla...>



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The increase in cases this week in Calgary, and elsewhere in Alberta, is concerning and reinforces the need for everyone to step up actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The good news is that we can all take action with good hygiene, staying home when sick, maintaining two metres of physical distance and wearing a face covering in public indoor spaces.

And the new mask bylaw, which will require face coverings in public indoor spaces and transit as of Aug. 1, is one tool that will further protect public health.

Learn more at calgary.ca/covid19.

AHS Local Geographic Areas

