

Dear whom this my concern,

Please consider this email as my written response that will form part of the public record. I have added the changes to the "New Emergency Measure bylaw", attached.

Also, I want you all to think; about what kind of town you want to be creating by adding fines. People are scared, confused and stressed about this whole situation. We are creating a town where we snitch on our neighbours and get mad at someone for not wearing a mask. This is a very slippery slope. If we were all in this together we would be showing more compassion and caring. This is a great town! I was born here and have enjoyed living here for the last 42 years; but this pandemic has brought out the worst in people. You can see it every day. We need to reunite, not divide, to get through this.

There are people who can't wear masks for a variety of reasons. And because the disability is invisible, people just don't show any compassion. If we see someone in a wheelchair we understand, because we can see the wheelchair. Could you imagine, someone in a wheelchair trying to go into a store and the store owner said, 'sorry no wheelchairs in here, you will have to park it outside and walk around the store!' Of course not! But this is happening to people who can't wear a mask because of the conditions they have. We are being denied access to food, services and even medical treatment and, to be frank, its very scary. I want you all to imagine walking in someone else shoes for a minute. I want to go through some of the reasons people can't wear masks and I want you to think about how you would feel not being able to enter a store, or get medical treatment. Say at some point in your life you fell into the water and stopped breathing, thankfully someone was there to get you breathing again. You could suffer from a condition that doesn't allow you to put anything on your mouth because your body goes back to that moment and you experience this involuntary reflex where the larynx closes the throat. Or what if you were sexually assaulted as a child or as an adult and had someone placing their hand over your mouth, and the very thought of wearing a mask brings those memories rushing back. Lastly, your house burnt down and in the process of getting yourself and you family out you inhaled a lot of smoke and you are unable to wear a mask because you wouldn't be able to stop coughing.

We can change what's happening in our town and bring back compassion and caring, but it needs to start with you! I hope you consider my comments.

Alana Hollander, C. Tech.