



The Niagara Region Mandatory Mask Bylaw came into effect July 31. The bylaw is designed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and relies on public education and compliance.

## Regional Mandatory Mask Bylaw in effect

On July 23, 2020, as part of their efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, Niagara Regional Council approved a by-law making it mandatory to wear a face covering or non-medical mask in enclosed public places.

The by-law came into effect at 12:01 a.m. on July 31, 2020, and will remain in effect until Oct. 1, 2020, unless extended by Regional Council.

When it comes to children, every child that is five years old or older will be required to wear a mask.

Under the by-law, all businesses operating in Niagara must have a policy regarding the wearing of face coverings that prevent persons from entering without a mask.

Additionally, businesses must ensure that staff receive training in the requirements of the policy and provide hand sanitizer at all public entrances.

### EXEMPTIONS

As some individuals may be unable to wear a mask, the Niagara Region is asking residents to be supportive to others in our community who may be exempt and remind residents that every person's situation is different.

For those who are unable to wear a mask, the

by-law does not require those individuals to disclose the reason for the exemption. The by-law also makes exemptions for indoor locations that would already have their own policies, or would be subject to other provincial legislation or guidelines:

- Day cares, schools, post secondary institutions and other facilities used solely for educational purposes
- Hospitals, independent health facilities and offices of regulated health professionals
- Buildings and services owned or operated by the Province of Ontario or the Federal Government of Canada
- An indoor area of a building that is accessible only to employees
- Portions of buildings that are being used for the purpose of providing day camps for children or for the training of amateur or professional athletes

If residents or businesses have any questions or concerns regarding this by-law, more information is available by visiting [www.niagararegion.ca/covid19](http://www.niagararegion.ca/covid19).

Learn more about the Town of Pelham's response to COVID-19, visit: [www.pelham.ca/covid19](http://www.pelham.ca/covid19)

### A facecovering is required in the following enclosed public spaces:

- Retail stores where goods and services are sold to customers
- Businesses that primarily sell food including restaurants
- Supermarkets, grocery stores, bakeries and convenience stores
- Churches, mosques, temples, synagogues and other places of worship, except during a religious rite or ceremony that is incompatible with the face being covered
- Shopping malls or similar structures which contain multiple places of business
- Lobby areas of commercial buildings
- Common areas of hotels and motels and other short term accommodations, such as lobbies, elevators, meeting rooms or other common use facilities but does not include the common areas of residential apartment buildings or condominiums
- Laundromats
- Concert venues, theatres and cinemas
- Fitness centres, gyms, other recreational and sports facilities and clubhouses
- Arcades and other amusement facilities
- Premises utilized as an open house, presentation centres or other facility for real-estate purposes
- Museums, galleries, historic sites and similar attractions
- Businesses providing personal care services
- Banquet halls, convention centres, arenas, stadiums and other event spaces
- Public transit operated by the Niagara Region and local area municipalities
- Municipal buildings

FACE MASK  
REQUIRED

[niagararegion.ca/COVID19](http://niagararegion.ca/COVID19)



This newsletter is designed to provide you with news, updates, information, and more regarding what happens at Town Hall and in the community. Primarily, this will be an electronic communication, though hard copies will be available in limited quantities at Town Hall, the libraries, the Community Centre, and Nick's Cleaners, usually within a few days after the online version is posted. You are encouraged to subscribe online by visiting: [www.pelham.ca/newsletter](http://www.pelham.ca/newsletter) and clicking the subscribe button.

# Declaration of Emergency for Pelham Ward One by-election



# 2020

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## BY-ELECTION

The Clerk for the Town of Pelham has declared an emergency under Sec. 53 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

With a provincial order declaring an emergency on March 17, and the Town of Pelham declaring an emergency on April 3, the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, provides that the Clerk is responsible for the conduct of the municipal election and may declare such an emergency to enact any measures the Clerk deems necessary or desirable to conduct the election.

“This declaration provides the municipality with options and means to ensure the safety and availability for all to vote in this fall’s by-election,” said Nancy Bozzato, Town Clerk. “Under the *Act*, the Clerk is given the authority to make the necessary arrangements, such as mail-in voting, for example, to ensure a safe voting experience.”

The Ward One by-election is set for September 15, 2020, and declaring the emergency gives the Clerk and staff the ability to identify new and safe approaches to conducting the election.

The necessary adaptations to the by-election voting process must be consistent with the *Act*’s principles.

Measures being considered for implementation to include:

- Advance voting opportunities with the suggestion to vote by odd/even house numbers, reducing the number of people in attendance and shorten wait times
- Addition of election officer positions including Physical Distancing Officer, Poll Station Cleaner, and Health Assessment Officer
- Personal protective equipment will be provided, including issuance of masks and one-time use gloves, one-time use pens, health assessment screening for anyone attending a voting place, and barrier screening for election personnel
- Introduction of on-demand special ballot process for persons impacted by COVID-19 or with lowered immune systems, allowing them to vote by mail or ballot delivery to a secure station

For more information on the 2020 Ward One by-election, visit: [www.pelham.ca/by-election-2020](http://www.pelham.ca/by-election-2020)

## Pelham’s first-ever Annual Report now available

The Town of Pelham issued its first-ever annual report, for the year ending December 31, 2019.

The report provides details about the Town’s financial performance and strategic goal achievements in the 2019 fiscal year, of which there were many.

Highlights from 2019 include award-winning communications initiatives, updating and developing financial policies such as reserves, debt, and cash management, establishing an audit committee and a utility sustainability committee, and developing a capital asset strategic policy.

“The 2019 financial results continue to demonstrate Pelham’s commitment to strengthening its financial sustainability,” said director of corporate services and treasurer, Teresa Quinlin. “Maintaining financial strength continues to be a focus for the Town. This report provides a high-level overview of the 2019 financial results for Pelham.”

As the Town works on an asset management plan including service delivery reviews and new budget software, the focus on balancing service levels, sustainability and affordability remain important goals towards ensuring informed decision making and the management of financial pressures facing the Town. The Town achieved a positive surplus in both the Consolidated Financial Statements per Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards and the budget on a modified cash basis.

Also included in the report are financial processes, consolidated financial statements, independent auditor’s reports, a statement of financial position and a statistical review for the five-year period of 2015-2019.

The report is dedicated to the late Councillor Mike Ciolfi, who passed away earlier in 2020. Ciolfi’s business acumen and leadership were tremendous assets in developing the Town’s new approach to financial issues and helping put Pelham on a positive financial track.

View the [2019 Annual Report](#).

## Council approves Zoning and Official Plan amendments for short term accommodations

On July 13, 2020, Town of Pelham Council passed bylaws to amend the Official Plan and the Zoning Bylaw as they pertain to short term accommodations within the town.

The amendment to the Official Plan institutes policies on short term accommodations within the Town, outlining that these types of establishments are permitted only in single-detached dwellings, and therefore not permitted in medium to high-density residential areas.

The amendment to the Zoning Bylaw allows bed and breakfast establishments within any principal residence dwelling in specific zones, including agriculture and commercial zones, but not residential, subject to parking, building

code, and licensing provisions.

The zoning amendment permits short term accommodation rentals including bed and breakfast establishments and short term rentals of entire dwelling units in the Agricultural, Special Rural, Neighbourhood Commercial, General Commercial and Commercial Rural zones subject to meeting licensing requirements.

Council also passed a complimentary Licensing By-law requiring all short term accommodations (including bed and breakfast establishments) to obtain a license to operate. To be granted a licence, establishments must comply with all applicable municipal bylaws, including the Zoning Bylaw and provincial legislation.

Implementing the Zoning Bylaw amendment does not permit establishments in residential zones. Therefore, an owner must apply for a licence and is required to comply with the Zoning Bylaw or undertake a rezoning of the property to comply. Furthermore, establishments are not permitted to be run by someone who is a renter, as they would not qualify for the licence.

The Licensing Bylaw, the Official Plan amendment, and the Zoning Bylaw amendment provide the appropriate tools to manage and regulate short term accommodations, including bed and breakfast establishments.