



COVID Response Plan

To manage the threat of COVID-19 through the winter, to incentivize vaccination, and to help ensure our economy and society can stay open I am proposing we implement a proof of vaccine system—which some call a vaccine passport. This would allow the vaccinated to access dine-in restaurants, concerts, nightclubs, gyms, and other indoor public places for mask free activities.

Plan Elements:

Businesses and indoor public places like restaurants, gyms, and cultural venues that want their patrons to be able to remove their masks will need to examine proof of vaccination presented by individuals. Individuals not able to be vaccinated due to age (those under 12) will be exempt.

Businesses and indoor public places which do not want to examine proof of vaccination will be subject to a new face covering bylaw, which will not have exemptions for eating, drinking, or exercising.

Businesses and indoor public places that want their patrons to be able to remove their masks will need to designate areas where that activity is permitted, which aims to eliminate mixing between maskless exempted members of the public and members of the public who are not exempted.

Examples:

Restaurants will be subject to the face covering bylaw. Everyone entering the restaurant would be required to wear a mask. Delivery drivers would enter the restaurant and leave while wearing a mask. Patrons wishing to dine-in would present their proof of vaccination and then be permitted to remove their masks according to the restaurant's policy of where patrons can remove their mask. Patrons picking up take-out would not be permitted in the dine-in area without presenting a proof of vaccination, as the dining room is inherently a maskless space.

Large Entertainment Venues will be subject to the face covering bylaw. Every member of the public entering the venue would be required to wear a mask. If the venue opts to provide food and beverage service in mezzanines or at your seat, proof of vaccination is required for members of the public to enter those areas.

Night-Clubs will be subject to the face covering bylaw. Everyone entering the night club would be required to wear a mask. Patrons wishing to enter into a maskless space would present their proof of vaccination and then be permitted to remove their masks according to the club's policy of where patrons can remove their mask.

Gyms and other fitness facilities will be subject to the face covering bylaw. Gyms will need to prepare a policy which designates areas where maskless activity is permitted, which aims to eliminate mixing between maskless exempted members of the public and members of the public who are not exempted. Gyms could opt for their entire facility to be maskless, particular parts, or none.

Malls and other subdivided indoor public spaces would operate much like the above. The difference would be that proof of vaccination would only be required at the entry point to a space where patrons are permitted to remove their mask. Malls may opt for their entire space to be a mask optional zone, and patrons would be required to present proof of vaccination upon entry. In the case entire malls did not wish to do so, the mall would be a mask mandatory space, but spaces within it could then opt to provide mask optional spaces, like food courts or individual stores.

Accommodations

The bylaw would accommodate operators of businesses and other public places who do not wish to verify vaccine status—those places would be mask mandatory areas for members of the public as they were before the repeal of the previous face covering bylaw.

It would accommodate those who wish to not disclose their vaccine status, by allowing restaurants to provide takeout; and other public places to allow attendance while wearing masks should the places so choose.

Incentives

These changes would create a massive incentive to get vaccinated, while simultaneously decreasing transmission to unvaccinated individuals through the reimposition of the mask mandate. In France 1.3 million (mostly younger) people opted for vaccinations after putting in place similar requirements. In Quebec, 1st dose registrations doubled. BC tripled their vaccination appointments in two days following the announcement of vaccine passports.

Better for Customers—Better for Business

These measures will assure fully vaccinated people that those around them are also fully vaccinated, reducing fear which decreases economic activity. It will provide certainty to businesses that Calgary can manage COVID-19 without shutting down public places, in-person dining, and mass gatherings.

Thresholds for repeal

The above will be in place until both of the following conditions are met:

- Vaccines have been available for individuals aged 6+ for 4 months; and
- Fewer than 50 active COVID-19 cases per 100k in Calgary

Or if revisited by Council.

Additional Measures—Transit Investment

We would increase the frequency of Calgary's busiest bus and LRT routes to provide more space for people. This would increase the frequency of the LRT to 10 minutes, and of other priority routes. We would allocate \$10 million from reserves to fund this until the end of the year.

How would it work?

Proof of Vaccination

Calgarians have various ways to prove their vaccine status. These methods are all trusted by the Public Health Agency of Canada's ArriveCAN process for presenting vaccine records upon arrival to Canada.

- Paper records of vaccination provided by your vaccine provider such as a pharmacy.
- A photo of the above records.
- A downloaded proof of vaccination from Alberta Health Services - MyHealth Records
 - Displayed on a mobile device
 - Printed (soon available in wallet size)

Enforcement

Enforcement would be similar to the City of Calgary's former face covering bylaw. The bylaw would require members of the public in a public premises or a public vehicle to wear a mask unless exempted. When an individual is not exempted and opts not to wear a mask, they would be guilty of an offence, and subject to sanction by an officer. An officer would have the option of issuing a violation ticket or a warning.

Similarly, a requirement to display signage describing the bylaw by owners and proprietors of indoor public spaces would be required.

Exemptions to the 2020 face coverings bylaw which would be retained

- Children under 2 years of age.
- Persons with an underlying medical condition or disability which inhibits their ability to wear a face covering.
- Persons who are unable to place, use or remove a face covering safely without assistance.
- Persons 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.