

**November 2020**

## **NEW MASK POLICY WILL KEEP US ALL SAFE**

**By Mayor Bill Beamish**

For many months now, the Town of Gibsons has had numerous COVID-19 safety protocols in place. Plexiglass dividers have been installed at the front counters, work spaces have been organized to promote physical distancing, disinfection practices have been stepped up, and employees have been supported in working from home whenever feasible.

Additionally, we have strongly encouraged members of the public and our staff to wear masks when engaging with each other inside a Town of Gibsons' building. Now, we are tightening that up.

Beginning Monday, November 9th, any member of the public who enters a Town-operated facility is required to wear a mask or other face covering. Similarly, staff must wear a mask whenever they interact with someone else.

We've adjusted our approach for a few reasons, including the recent spike in COVID-19 cases we have seen across the province. Additionally, the message from Dr. Bonnie Henry is that masks are expected in public spaces – and that community leaders should set an example when it comes to implementing strong policy in infection prevention.

Of course, the most effective way to prevent (or even eliminate) the spread of COVID-19 is by limiting the total number of people with whom we interact.

That's why, since very early in the pandemic, we've been asking our citizens to access municipal services by phone or email whenever possible, and to make any required payments (such as for utility bills) through their online banking applications.

I would also encourage everyone to bundle up and get outside at least once a day, either alone or in small, physically distanced groups. It's the safest way to socialize and even short amounts of time outside can have a hugely positive impact on mental wellbeing.

We've got a way to go before life gets back to normal. Let's keep doing everything we can to keep ourselves and each other safe.

Do you have an opinion you'd like to share regarding our new mask policy or any other issue? Please feel free to contact me by email at [mayor@gibsons.ca](mailto:mayor@gibsons.ca) or by phone at 604-989-2364.

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Mayor of Gibsons



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