



## STATEMENT

# Use of masks and extension of preventative measures at the House of Commons

*Ottawa, Ontario—August 3, 2021*

The Honourable Anthony Rota, Speaker of the House of Commons and Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, reports that the Board has extended the preventative measures regarding the mandatory use of masks in the House of Commons precinct until **September 15, 2021**.

Therefore, the following measures remain in place until that time:

- It is mandatory for any person, including Members and their staff, political research office employees, Administration employees, members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, and parliamentary business visitors, to wear a mask / face covering in the House of Commons precinct, including the Chamber and committee rooms (except when the Member is at their place during parliamentary proceedings), Members' offices, and House Administration work environments (excluding workstations / desks where two-metre physical distancing is possible).

Masks are to be worn in the following House of Commons precinct areas:

- The Chamber and committee rooms, except when the Member is at their place during parliamentary proceedings
- Members' offices and Administration offices, excluding workstations / desks where two-metre physical distancing is possible
- Building entrances
- Elevator lobbies
- Hallways, including common hallways within House Administration work areas
- Washrooms
- Locker rooms
- Cafeterias and canteens
- Indoor parking lots
- Elevators and escalators
- Stairways

- Meeting rooms and multipurpose rooms
- Collaboration spaces
- Lunchrooms and kitchenettes

The requirement to wear a mask / face covering does not apply to:

- The Chamber and committee rooms when Members are at their place during parliamentary proceedings. However, it is strongly recommended that Members wear a mask / face covering when they are at their place during parliamentary proceedings.
- Members and other individuals participating in a press conference, including scrums, where two-metre physical distancing measures have been implemented.
- Workstations / desks in Members' offices and Administration offices where two-metre physical distancing is possible.

The following persons are exempted from wearing a mask / face covering:

- A person who has a medical condition that precludes the safe wearing of a mask / face covering or who is unable to put on or remove the mask / face covering without the assistance of another person
- A person who needs to temporarily remove the mask / face covering to consume food or drink

The following measures, previously approved by the Board, remain in effect until further notice:

- The House of Commons precinct is closed to public visitors, and public tours are suspended
- Committee travel is suspended
- Parliamentary activities in the precinct that are not essential to the functioning of Parliament are suspended

These decisions were made to meet ongoing recommendations from public health authorities to help limit the spread of COVID-19 within the work environment.

**For more information:**

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