

Public Notice regarding amendments to the mandatory face mask requirements for service on Owen Sound Transportation Company and Pelee Island Transportation Service ferries

September 9, 2020

Background: Owen Sound Transportation Company implemented a mandatory face mask policy for all passengers on the Pelee Island Ferry Service on April 22, and the Manitoulin Island ferry service on June 1, 2020. The policy requires all passengers to wear face masks at all times on board the ferries operated by the company, and while inside ferry terminal buildings. Face masks must also be worn outdoors on ferry terminal property where physical distancing is not possible. Persons who refuse to wear a mask will be denied ferry service.

Passengers who are unable to wear a face mask must fall into one of the described “exempt” categories, and the company will provide accommodation to the extent that is reasonable and physically possible without compromising the safety of other passengers and crew.

Mandatory Face Mask Policy Amendments Effective Monday, September 14, 2020:

Amendment 1: passengers who claim a mask exemption from the mandatory face mask policy must produce a note from a medical professional. (See Annex A below for format and required content of note).

Exceptions to the mandatory mask wearing policy and requirement for proof of exemption are limited as follows:

No proof of exemption required:

- Children under the age of two.
- Individuals who are unable to put on or remove a mask without assistance and are traveling without a support worker or companion who can provide that assistance.

Proof of exemption required:

- Individuals with a medical condition that makes it difficult to wear a mask. This can include but is not limited to:
- Medical condition, mental health condition, cognitive condition or disability that prevents wearing a mask or face covering.
- Medical condition that makes it difficult to breathe or someone who is unconscious or incapacitated.
- People who are hearing impaired or are communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, and where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- People who require accommodation in accordance with the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

Amendment 2: If a passenger without a mask exemption refuses to wear a face mask once on board the ferry or in any other designated ferry property space where face masks are mandatory, the passenger will be banned from service for the duration of the ferry operating season.

Additional Covid-19 policies and procedures can be found at [\(link to Covid-19 page on website\)](#)

Annex A

Proof of exemption must be in the form of a medical professional's note. The note may only be issued and signed by a Healthcare Provider who is a physician, nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant, must be legible, and must contain the following information:

1. Exemption note must make the following statement:

"The holder of this medical certificate is unable to wear a non-medical mask or face covering due to a medical or physical condition".

2. Exemption note must provide Certificate Holder information:

Surname, given names and date of birth

3. Exemption note must provide Healthcare provider information:

Healthcare Provider full name

Healthcare Provider License number

Healthcare Provider Contact phone number.

4. The exemption note must be signed and dated by the Healthcare Provider.

Incomplete forms will not be accepted – all the above detailed information is required.