

Update on Temporary Universal Masking Motion Resolution #22-168

January 16, 2023
Board Meeting

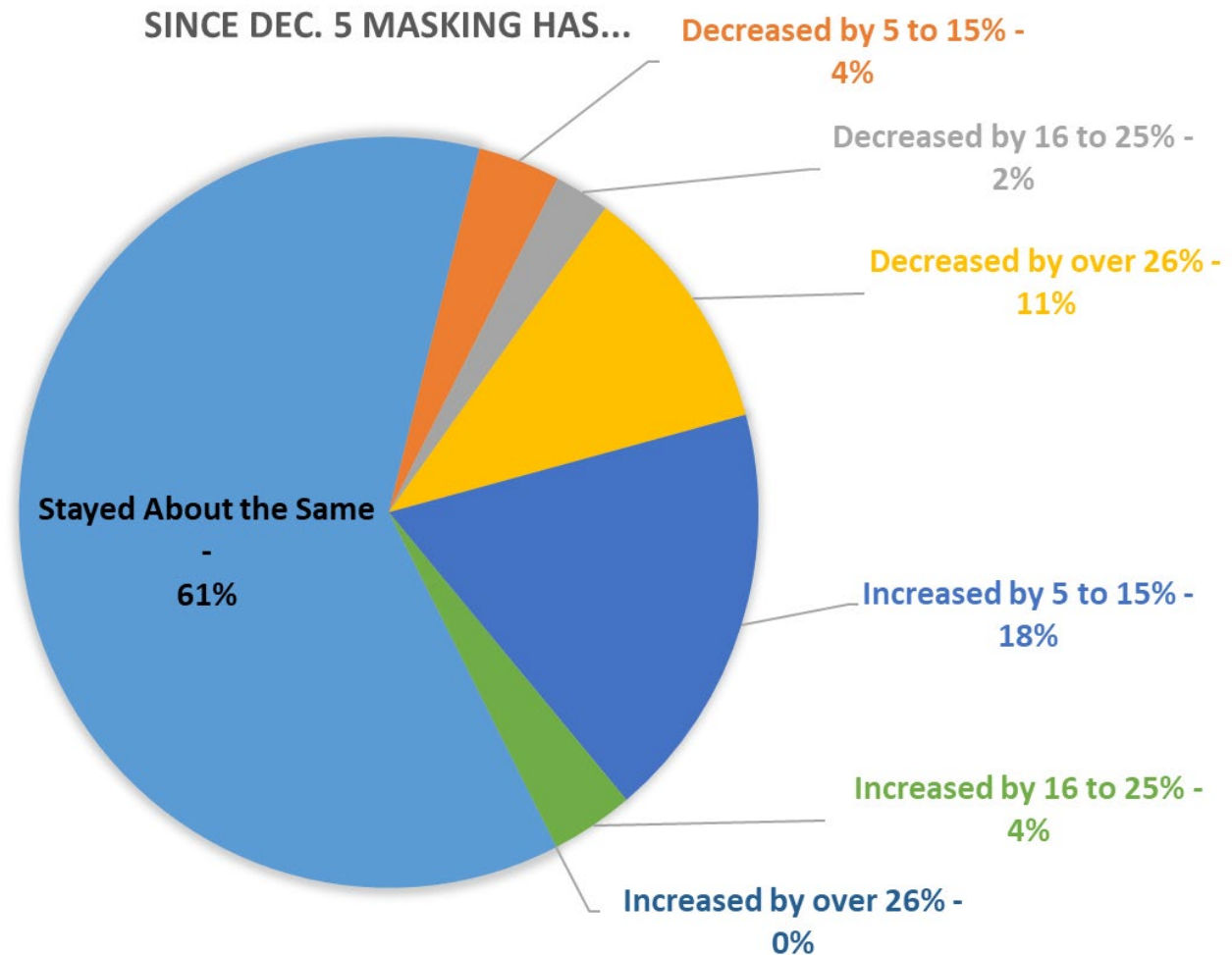
That staff operationalize a temporary universal masking requirement, with an unrestricted option to opt-out, in all HWDSB schools; and that the temporary requirement be renewable at the first Board meeting in January.

- Students, staff and visitors are required to wear masks while at school
- PPE
- Posters
- Opting Out Process for students and staff
- Reminders – layering of strategies and how to wear a mask

- December 7: Principal/Vice-Principal Information Session
- December 8: Email sent directly to families [Universal Masking Requirement Temporary](#)
- December 15: Web Post and social media sharing of [Hamilton Public Health Services Shares Prevention Measures for Respiratory Illnesses](#)
- January 8: Social media to remind families about the Temporary Universal Masking Requirement

As of January 13th:

- **4720** individuals have opted out of mask wearing



**Information from
Hamilton Board of Health Meeting
January 16, 2023**

<https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-covid/covid-19-data>

Local Respiratory Virus Transmission Status

Local COVID-19 Activity: High & Stable

Local Influenza Activity: Moderate & Decreasing

Key Messages:

- COVID-19 reported cases, hospitalizations, test positivity, wastewater signal, and the number of active outbreaks are currently stable, while intensive care unit (ICU) admissions have increased.
- Influenza percent positivity has decreased, while cases have remained stable.

Key Messages

- Hamiltonians are recommended to take protective measures to reduce serious health consequences this respiratory virus season:
 - Get the flu shot and stay up-to-date with your vaccines including completion of primary COVID-19 vaccine series and/or seasonal COVID-19 booster (booster in last 6 months)
 - Stay home when you are ill
 - Strongly recommend wearing a mask when in crowded indoor settings and/or when unable to distance
 - Speak to your healthcare provider, know in advance if you're eligible for treatment and where to access

Health System Capacity: Admissions/Funded Beds

	Hospital	Dec 5, 2022	Dec 12, 2022	Dec 19, 2022	Dec 26, 2022	Jan 2, 2023	Jan 9, 2023
Acute Care Occupancy	SJHH	102% 349/342	96% 328/342	99% 343/346	97% 312/322	107% 370/346	99% 350/354
	HHS	101% 669/662	103% 682/662	105% 695/662	97% 642/662	104% 688/662	107% 708/662
	MCH	105% 78/74	104% 77/74	96% 71/74	101% 75/74	97% 72/74	100% 74/74
Intensive Care Unit Occupancy	SJHH	86% 24/28	79% 22/28	71% 20/28	68% 19/28	82% 23/28	79% 22/28
	HHS	81% 70/86	90% 77/86	81% 70/86	78% 67/86	80% 69/86	74% 64/86
	MCH	92% 11/12	108% 13/12	100% 12/12	83% 10/12	100% 12/12	117% 14/12

Note: SJHH: St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, HHS: Hamilton Health Sciences, MCH: McMaster Children's Hospital

Questions?