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## Press Release

**August 21, 2020**

Sturgeon County Council adopted a mask bylaw August 20<sup>th</sup> due to the increase of COVID-19 cases, which resulted in their AHS classification changing from “open” to “watch”. The Temporary Mandatory Face Coverings Bylaw applies to all indoor or substantially enclosed indoor spaces that are available to the public, whether privately owned or owned by Sturgeon County, as well as public vehicles (taxis, shuttles). The bylaw only applies to Sturgeon County.

Currently the Town of Redwater has no cases of COVID-19, however we need to stay vigilant, practicing social distancing, proper hygiene and wearing of masks. As noted in our August 4<sup>th</sup> press release, the Town promotes the wearing of masks and public education, rather than enforcement via a bylaw, as it would be impossible to enforce. Council will discuss our COVID-19 response including the use of masks as well as another initiative to stimulate our economy and promote mask use during our September 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Council meeting.

Regionally, our emergency management team met with our Sturgeon Regional Emergency Management Partnership group (SREMP) to discuss the value of such a bylaw. At this time, Sturgeon County is the only municipality adopting such a bylaw, although others will discuss with their respective Councils.

The Town and our residents have worked hard to provide a safe environment to stimulate our economy while trying to return to as near-normal life as possible. This was exemplified by our recent fireworks display. Residents acted in a responsible manner- socially distancing and wearing masks where appropriate. We commend you for that. We also thank those that do wear a mask and encourage those that do not to utilize a mask to protect others including their families.

Respectfully,

Larry Davidson  
Town Manager