



Mayor Don Iveson
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2R7

Mayor Naheed Nenshi
Calgary Mayor's Office
800 Macleod Trail SE
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 2M5

June 3, 2021

EZMSA Office
Suite 201 12315 Stony Plain Road NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5N 3Y8

Re: Alberta's Open for Summer Plan

Dear Mayor Iveson and Mayor Nenshi:

As you are aware, the EZMSA's Strategic COVID-19 Pandemic Committee has expressed concern about Stage 3 of Alberta's Open for Summer plan which could occur on June 24th. Currently, 36% of Albertans over the age of 12 have had no dose of the COVID vaccine, 64.4% a single dose and only 10.4% are fully protected. Given this low level of full protection, the known ability of the new delta variant (formerly B.1.617.2, "Indian variant") to spread more rapidly than previous variants, and the delta variant's ability to infect two-thirds of those with only a single dose, it is clear that lifting all restrictions, including the ban on indoor social gatherings, is a bad idea. This reckless relaxing of precautions and allowing super-spreader events to take place is likely to jeopardize the smooth reopening of schools and workplaces in the fall.

The purpose of this letter is to ask that you consider taking the brave and meaningful steps you and your city councils took earlier in the epidemic, when the government was not prepared to act to protect its citizens. Your actions then, particularly in August of last year to mandate masks in indoor spaces, made a difference in controlling the spread of the virus and preventing disease in Edmontonians and Calgarians.

EZMSA



EDMONTON ZONE MEDICAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

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Our Committee strongly urges you to take similar actions during this Stage 3 of the province's reopening plan, that is, requiring that masks be worn in indoor spaces until such time as 70% of your respective city's populations have received two doses of COVID vaccine.

Thank-you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Noel Gibney

Dr. James Talbot

Co-Chairs, Strategic COVID-19 Pandemic Committee
Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association

CC: Dr. Erika MacIntyre, President, EZMSA
Dr. Scott Beach, President, Calgary and Area Medical Staff Society
Mr. Bin Lau, Strategic Advisor to the Mayor, City of Edmonton
Ms. Devery Corbin, Chief of Staff, City of Calgary