

## Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

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**From:** Shewchuk, Chris GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** August 4, 2020 1:07 PM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX; Smith, Paula GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Heads-up/Q: Universal mask use in Hospitals  
**Attachments:** Open Letter to British Columbia Health Officials from Medical Science Community.pdf; News release 20200803.pdf  
  
**Importance:** High

Here is an open letter addressed to DBH, MD and the Premier from a large group of physicians who are calling on mandatory masks.

**Chris Shewchuk**  
Ministry of Health - GCPE  
778.698.8234 (office) 778.677.0965 (mobile)  
[chris.shewchuk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:chris.shewchuk@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** madair@doctorsofbc.ca <madair@doctorsofbc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 4, 2020 12:49 PM  
**To:** Shewchuk, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Shewchuk@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** madair@doctorsofbc.ca  
**Subject:** Heads-up/Q: Universal mask use in Hospitals  
**Importance:** High

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Hi Chris,

Checking on this one, news release from docs asking for a mandatory mask policy, especially in hospitals and ERs.

I anticipate we will get media calls; any advice you can provide re: gvt/PHO messaging much appreciated.

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# Masks4Canada

August 4, 2020

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<https://masks4canada.org/home/open-letters/>

# Masks4Canada

**Embargoed until 1pm Tuesday, August 4 2020**

Media Contact: Drs. Anna Wolak and James Heilman

Email: [Masks4BC.mail@gmail.com](mailto:Masks4BC.mail@gmail.com)

Twitter: [@Masks4BC](https://twitter.com/Masks4BC)

## **MASKS4CANADA ASKS BC TO MANDATE MASKING IN LIGHT OF GROWING SPREAD OF COVID-19**

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*Full list of 1700+ signatures from medical and scientific professionals available at:*  
<https://masks4canada.org/home/open-letters/>

## Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

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**From:** Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** July 27, 2020 3:09 PM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Attn: Michelle - For Dr. Bonnie Henry - BC Open Letter requesting indoor mask mandate  
**Attachments:** [Dev] Open Letter to British Columbia Health Officials from Medical Science Community-3.pdf

Hi Bonnie,

Is this something you would like a response to come from you directly on?

Thanks,

**Laurel Thompson** | *Executive Coordinator*  
Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Ministry of Health

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**From:** Ashley Ko s.22  
**Sent:** July 27, 2020 1:24 PM  
**To:** Prov Hlth Office HLTH:EX <[ProvHlthOffice@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ProvHlthOffice@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Attn: Michelle - For Dr. Bonnie Henry - BC Open Letter requesting indoor mask mandate

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Michelle,

Thank you for answering my phone call. I honestly didn't expect for anyone to answer so I was so excited. Thank you for your time in listening to my reason for my phone call.

Please see attached - it's in its DRAFT format. If you could share this with Dr. Henry it would be much appreciated. I am also forwarding the email I sent previously below.

I would very much appreciate her input and shedding some light. As physicians we can only work with the available medical evidence on hand but we are not privy to the background work that goes into having the public follow. The BC group wants to do what is best for our province, and Dr. Henry's guidance is certainly what we are looking for.

No media release planned as of yet - will wait for her response first. Thank you again for your help!

Sincerely,

Ashley

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ashley Ko** s.22

Date: Sat, Jul 18, 2020 at 7:08 AM

Subject: Open letter for BC - mask mandate

To: <[bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca)>

Dear Dr. Henry,

I hope this Email finds you well. Thank you for all you are doing.

I am a pediatric ophthalmologist in the lower mainland. I am also part of the group Masks4canada ([www.masks4canada.org](http://www.masks4canada.org)). There has been a strong push to mandate indoor mask wearing in Quebec and Ontario and this group has been very active with the media, online presence etc and I believe has been a large part for the big mandate push.

There is now movement beginning in BC to write an open letter (to you, premier, and Dr. Dix) for indoor mask mandate, to be signed by BC physicians.

I may be wrong, but I couldn't help but feel that you are gently leading us towards mask wearing in your own way. If that is true, perhaps waiting on the open letter is a better way to ensure people will follow your gentler approach and leadership.

Would you be able to shed some light on your plan? I realize there is much more going on behind the scenes and that we shouldn't make any assumptions based on the limited info we are privy to. However, the recent zoom meeting by the UBC expert panel was very disheartening as they went so far as saying masking wasn't likely effective / necessary because our community transmission rate is so low.

Thank you again for all you do. s.22

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ashley Ko, MD FRCSC  
Clinical Instructor, UBC Dept of Ophthalmology

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July 28, 2020

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