

Request for Decision

Title	Council COVID-19 Policy
Proposed Motion	That Council approve the amended Council COVID-19 Policy as presented.
Administrative Recommendation	Administration recommends that Council amend the Council COVID-19 Policy to align with the Government of Alberta's 3-step plan to phase out COVID-19 public health measures announced on February 8, 2022.
Previous Council / Committee Direction	<u>January 25, 2022 Regular Council Meeting</u> Motion 027/22: That Council approve the Council COVID-19 Policy as presented.
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the January 25, 2022 Council meeting, Council approved the Council COVID-19 Policy, which includes the following provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The requirement to not attend any Sturgeon County work site if the Councillor has tested positive for COVID-19 or is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. The requirement to wear face coverings at all times while in an indoor, enclosed, or substantially enclosed County work site unless an exemption is warranted, or an exception is applicable in accordance with the provisions of the Policy. The requirement for Councillors to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or participate in rapid testing in accordance with the provisions of the Policy. The isolation and face coverings requirements of the Policy came into effect on January 25 and the vaccination/rapid test requirements came into effect on January 31, 2022. On February 8, 2022, the Government of Alberta announced a 3-step plan to phase out COVID-19 public health measures. Matters relevant to Sturgeon County include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 1 – Effective February 9, 2022 – Removal of Restrictions Exemption Program (REP), along with associated restrictions. Step 2 – Effective March 1, 2022, if hospitalization are trending downwards – Mandatory work-from-home requirements lifted; indoor masking no longer required.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Step 3 – Timeline to be determined based on hospitalization rates – Mandatory isolation removed (becomes a recommendation only). ● In response to the enactment of Step 1 of the Government of Alberta’s plan, Administration recommends that the requirement for Councillors to provide proof of vaccination or participate in rapid testing be rescinded, effective immediately. This would align with the rescission of Sturgeon County’s Employee COVID-19 Vaccination Directive and Visitor COVID-19 Vaccination Directive on February 9, 2022. ● Administration recommends that face covering requirements be rescinded in alignment with the lifting of provincial indoor masking requirements. This could be as early as March 1, 2022, pending hospitalization rates. ● As mandatory isolation requirements will not be addressed until Step 3, Administration recommends that the requirement for Councillors to not attend any County work site after testing positive for COVID-19 or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms remain in effect until Step 3 is enacted. <p><u>External Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None. <p><u>Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Occupational Health & Safety Act</i> ● Government of Alberta Public Health Orders
Implication of Administrative Recommendation	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>Thriving Communities – The Policy promotes safe, welcoming, and diverse communities.</p> <p>Collaborative Governance – The Policy establishes clear and supportive governance processes.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members of Council would be required to comply with the amended Policy. <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None.
Alternatives Considered	That Council approve the Council COVID-19 Policy with amendments other than those proposed by Administration (could include the immediate rescission of the Policy).
Implications of Alternatives	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dependent on the amendments proposed. <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dependent on the amendments proposed.

	<u>Financial:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on the amendments proposed.
Follow up Action	1. Obtain Mayor and CAO signatures on the Policy (Legislative Services, February 2022).
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1: Council COVID-19 Policy – Redline with Proposed Amendments 2. Attachment 2: Council COVID-19 Policy – Proposed Amended Policy
Report Reviewed by:	Jesse Sopko, Director, Corporate Services Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner – CAO

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: *Offering a rich tapestry of historical, cultural, and natural experiences, Sturgeon County is a municipality that honours its rural roots and cultivates desirable communities. Uniquely situated to provide world-class agricultural, energy, and business investment opportunities, the County prioritizes responsible stewardship and dreaming big.*

Guiding Principles: Collaboration | Accountability | Flexibility | Excellence | Safety | Future Readiness | Affordability | Innovation

Community Outcome	Not consistent	Consistent	N/A
Planned Growth			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internationally competitive to attract, grow and sustain diverse businesses; tenacious focus on new growth and innovation 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern broadband and digital capabilities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low cost, minimal red-tape regulations 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable and effective infrastructure planning; comprehensive land use and infrastructure planning 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Thriving Communities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beautiful, surprising places with high standards; integrated natural spaces & trail systems; healthy and resilient 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging cultural, historical, and civic amenities; strong community identity and pride 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe, welcoming, and diverse communities; small community feel and personal connection; commitment to high quality of life 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Stewardship			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean air, land, and water; Carbon neutral municipal practices; circular economy opportunities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of natural areas and agricultural lands; enhanced greening and biodiversity; safekeeping ecosystems 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable development; partnerships with industry and others to drive emission reductions 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Governance			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predictable and stable external relationships; volunteer partnerships 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaningful connections with Indigenous communities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing community consultation and engagement; transparent and action-oriented decision making based on sound rationale 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respectful and informed debate; clear and supportive governance processes 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operational Excellence			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged and effective people – Council, Admin and Volunteers; continuous learning and improvement mindset; nimble and bold, with strong leadership 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality cost-effective service delivery; robust procurement and operational practices and policies; asset management and performance measurement; careful debt and reserve stewardship; long-term financial planning and sustainability 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future focused thinking to proactively respond to emerging opportunities and challenges 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative revenue generation and service delivery models integrated strategic and business planning 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>