

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 02/08/2021 01:32 PM

Council File No: 20-0429

Comments for Public Posting: I understand that you would like to keep the proposed law simple, with as few exceptions, conditions, and qualifications as possible. However, I contend that some adjustments are required, at least concerning those who are exercising or otherwise active out-of-doors. The World Health Organization (WHO) states that masks should not be worn during exercise, though they do advise conditions. "Should I wear a mask while exercising? Even when you're in an area of COVID-19 transmission, masks should not be worn during vigorous physical activity because of the risk of reducing your breathing capacity. No matter how intensely you exercise, keep at least 1 metre away from others, and if you're indoors, make sure there is adequate ventilation." <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-masks> The Mayor's latest Order, Safer L.A. of 1/29/21, states that for outdoor activity facial coverings are to be worn "... whenever contact with others, who are non-household members, occurs or is likely to occur ...". This is less restrictive than the proposed "may come in contact with". This is the difference between being probable and being possible. Wearing a mask when contact with another is probable should be sufficient to avoid transmission while not burdening those who are exercising. (Note that I am advising this change should apply only to outdoor activities.) Also, the Mayor makes exceptions for:

- "... those at risk of suffocation,
- people with certain disabilities and
- individuals engaging in water activities and certain sports specified in Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Protocols ..."

These exceptions seem quite reasonable.