

August 19, 2021

Honorable Ned Lamont, Governor
State of Connecticut
Office of the Governor, State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont,

Amid concerns related to the increasing spread of the Delta variant and a surge of new COVID-19 cases in our region, state, and across the country, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) held a discussion with its members regarding the issuance of municipal mandates requiring the wearing of masks indoors as allowed by Executive Order 13A. Most of our chief elected officials and managers from CRCOG's 38 member municipalities were on the call. The impromptu planning of this meeting highlights the importance of the timely discussion to proactively address the public health concerns of the residents in our region.

Our discussion was insightful and respectful of all views. We recognized the serious nature of what is at stake – the public health of our residents and visitors to our region and Connecticut. Our 60-minute conversation focused on our need to be proactive, follow the science, and discuss the benefits an indoor mask-wearing mandate would have in our communities. We also acknowledged the difficulty individual towns would have in enforcing a mandate at the municipal level. Since the transmission of COVID-19 does not stop at municipal borders or regional boundaries, we also worry that an imposition of a mask mandate on a town-by-town basis would not be as impactful as a statewide mandate.

As a Council of Governments (COG), we cannot require our municipal members to mandate indoor mask-wearing. As a COG, however, many of our member towns will be acting together and voluntarily issuing mask mandates in their localities. CRCOG also respectfully requests that you issue a new Executive Order to require indoor mask-wearing statewide until such time as the coronavirus infection rate in Connecticut is in decline and counties in the state are no longer in the CDC's substantial or high transmission categories. As municipal leaders, we urge you to use your office and authority to establish a statewide mandate instead of a patchwork of municipal mandates.

Thank you for your leadership during the pandemic and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Marcia Leclerc, CRCOG Chair
Mayor, Town of East Hartford