

# SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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18 August 2021

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

Dear Governor Lamont:

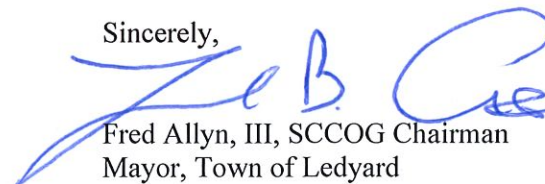
This morning the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) held a teleconference to discuss the issuance of municipal mandates requiring the wearing of masks indoors as allowed by Executive Order 13A. The Chief Elected Officials and Managers from 20 of the SCCOG's 22 member municipalities were on this call, indicating the importance of this issue at this time. Also on the call were the Directors of the three regional health districts in southeastern Connecticut; representatives of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribe, SCCOG affiliate members; as well as SCCOG's military liaisons from the United States Naval Submarine Base and the United States Coast Guard Academy.

Our discussion was thought provoking, respectful of all views, and recognized the serious nature of what is at stake – the public health of our residents and visitors to the region. The conversation lasted 90 minutes, time that our municipal CEOs gladly devoted to this most serious and time-sensitive subject. We thoroughly discussed the positive impact on health that an indoor mask wearing mandate would have, but we also note the difficulty that individual towns would have in enforcing a mandate at the municipal level. Because the transmission of COVID-19 does not stop at municipal borders or regional boundaries, we also worry that imposition of a mask mandate on a town-by-town basis would not be as impactful as a statewide mandate.

Since as a Council of Governments we cannot require our municipal members to mandate indoor mask wearing, the SCCOG today by consensus decided to issue the attached recommendation urging voluntary indoor mask wearing region-wide. The SCCOG, as noted in that statement, has also requested that I write to you to respectfully request 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, as opposed to a patchwork of municipal mandates.

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

Sincerely,



Fred Allyn, III, SCCOG Chairman  
Mayor, Town of Ledyard

Attachment

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**Member Municipalities:** Bozrah \* Colchester \* East Lyme \* Franklin \* Griswold \* Borough of Jewett City \* City of Groton \* Town of Groton \* Lebanon \* Ledyard \* Lisbon \* Montville \* New London \* North Stonington \* Norwich \* Preston \* Salem \* Sprague \* Stonington \* Stonington Borough \* Waterford \* Windham

*If language assistance is needed, please contact SCCOG at 860-889-2324, [office@seccog.org](mailto:office@seccog.org)  
Si necesita asistencia lingüística, por favor comuníquese a 860-889-2324, [office@seccog.org](mailto:office@seccog.org).  
如果您需要语言帮助，请致电 860-889-2324 或发送电子邮件至 [office@seccog.org](mailto:office@seccog.org).*