SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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RECOMMENDATION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCL OF GOVERNMENTS REGARDING INDOOR MASK WEARING

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), composed of the Chief Elected Officials of the 22 cities, towns, and boroughs in the region, **strongly recommends** the wearing of masks in all indoor places where people gather with other people who are not members of their immediate household in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This includes businesses, offices, restaurants, recreational facilities, entertainment venues, places of worship, and cultural institutions.

This recommendation is consistent with the updated guidance of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued on July 27th, which encourages people who live in high-transmission communities to wear masks in indoor public spaces, even if they've been vaccinated. The CDC has placed five of Connecticut's eight counties in the "high transmission" category, including New London County, which has experienced a dramatic increase in the rate of infections over the past several weeks.

The majority of SCCOG member municipalities now require indoor mask wearing in spaces where people gather in municipal facilities. The SCCOG encourages such a policy be instituted by individual private establishments in all of its municipalities for the purpose of protecting the residents of and visitors to the region from COVID-19, especially the highly transmissible Delta variant. Because this pandemic is not a local or regional issue, it is the SCCOG's intent to make this position known to Governor Lamont and to recommend that he enact by Executive Order a statewide indoor mask mandate.

The SCCOG urges the region and its residents to comply with this minor inconvenience during this unprecedented public health crisis. While wearing a mask indoors might be inconvenient or uncomfortable, it can help prevent the transmission of this coronavirus and thus save lives.

Fred Allyn, III Chairman

Mayor, Town of Ledyard