



Yorktown Town Hall
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December 14, 2021

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I am writing to alert you about a situation unfolding in Northern Westchester as it relates to the recently enacted indoor mask mandate and its negative impact on local businesses.

You have recently stated that counties can choose to enforce your indoor mask mandate. This is creating a disparity for municipalities like mine whose customers are going to neighboring counties that are choosing not to enforce it.

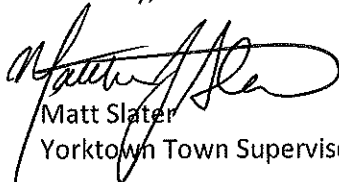
In big, diverse counties like Westchester, towns should be afforded the same flexibility you have authorized for counties, especially when we live in a county with a vaccination rate of 93% of adults over the age 18.

Like most small and independent businesses in the Hudson Valley and across New York State, Yorktown's have struggled to stay open during this pandemic and now are forced to survive an unintended consequence of a one size fits all statewide policy.

The Town of Yorktown is proud of its focus to provide local vaccines. We have become a regional hub for vaccination clinics that occur on a near weekly basis. Our clinics are currently providing booster shots and pediatric vaccines and have played a critical role in Westchester County's impressive vaccination status of 93% of adults.

On behalf of our local businesses I urge you to reexamine your indoor mask mandate and provide municipalities with the authority to make decisions that make sense for them. We all want to emerge from this terrible pandemic stronger than ever and I offer my hand in partnership in developing policies that will accomplish this.

Sincerely,


Matt Slater
Yorktown Town Supervisor

cc: Westchester County Executive George Latimer
Sergio Esposito, Yorktown Chamber of Commerce
Bob Giordano, Yorktown Small Business Association