

## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The West Hartford Fire Department is committed to fire prevention and community safety. Reaching out to the people we serve is important because the information we offer may result in a fire being prevented or life being saved.

You've seen the masked smiley on buttons and in storefront windows around town. That's because the West Hartford Fire Department has partnered with our local businesses to remind people of the message in our governor's executive order: Wear your mask in public, even outdoors, when you can't keep a safe distance of 6 feet away from another person. It is mandatory!

We understand that masks fail, masks fall, and sometimes the mask we choose at home doesn't always fit or feel comfortable when we go out. That's why you can find members of our fire department offering masks for free to anyone who needs one during the busiest evenings near our busiest walkways. Why? Because we also understand that the precautions we take, like wearing a mask and keeping social distance can prevent the spread of COVID-19 and we want to give everyone the opportunity to be safe and keep others safe too. The people around you, including shop owners, front line workers, and others enjoying the night on the town are wearing masks to keep you healthy. Please return the favor by wearing your mask. Take a mask if you need it and wear not just because you'll be compliant with the governor's executive order, wear it for everyone's safety.

This measure may seem simple, but it's so important in our collaborative effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The West Hartford Fire Department wants you to be safe and healthy and we thank you for joining us in taking this protective action.