



January 7, 2022

Dear Dr. Dunn,

As you know, the County and State are experiencing unprecedented numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths, and our hospitals have reached full capacity. It is our shared responsibility as leaders to protect every life we can, so I write to you today to urge you to enact a life-saving county-wide mask requirement in public spaces during the next several weeks.

In addition to the alarming data in our County, I'm also closely watching the trend across the nation of city mayors being forced to declare states of emergency due to staffing shortages in their public safety departments. Community spread impacts every function of our government, and as public officials, we have a responsibility to keep our employees safe.

As you know and as we have discussed in the past, a countywide requirement will do significantly more to protect our constituents than a mask requirement in Salt Lake City alone, both in reducing community transmission during the highly contagious Omicron wave, and in protecting the heroic medical staff at our overwhelmed hospitals. If we do not take this step for them now, there may not be enough healthy doctors and nurses on duty to take care of our constituents when this wave crests in a few weeks.

I know you share my desire to do all in your power to protect our residents, our healthcare and frontline workers, and to keep schools and businesses open. We all want a return to normal, and keeping as many people out of the hospital as possible is a very simple way to help us get there.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your speedy response.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Mendenhall".

Mayor Erin Mendenhall

Cc: Mayor Jenny Wilson