

Subject: re: Support Wearing Masks via the Oklahoma Dental Hygienists' Association

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to ask for your support of the proposed Tulsa Ordinance for wearing masks in public places. I am a Tulsa area dental hygienist. I seek support for the mask proposal as a Tulsa citizen and as health care professional.

The rate of positive COVID-19 cases in Oklahoma continues its dramatic rise, with a record 993 new cases reported on Tuesday, July 14. The relentless spread of Sars-CoV-2 (Covid -19) threatens dental hygienists, dental offices, our patients and the general public. The disease is not only having a deleterious impact upon public health, it threatens our entire economy. There is now a considerable body of evidenced based research demonstrating that wearing masks in public places is one of the best tools we have to stem the growing tide of Sars-CoV-2 (Covid -19) infection.

The ODHA (Oklahoma Dental Hygienists Association) Executive Board supports local government efforts to address the wearing of masks to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Evidence-based research supporting this statement:

A study published in *Physics of Fluids* shows "...that the use of face masks will reduce the airborne droplet transmission and will also protect the wearer from the droplets expelled from other subjects." This study also showed that for people wearing a mask the majority of droplets will travel about half the distance compared to those not wearing a mask.

Dbouk, Talib and Dimitiris Drikakis. May 2020. On Respiratory Droplets and Face Masks. *Physics of Fluids* (32). Published online 16 June 2020. Accessed online July 11, 2020.

<https://aip.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/5.0015044>

"Our results suggest use of face masks by the general public is potentially of high value in curtaining community transmission and the burden of the pandemic. The community wide benefits are likely to be greatest when face masks are used in conjunction with other non-pharmaceutical practices (such as social-distancing), and when adoption is nearly universal (nation-wide) and compliance is high." This study also found that masks help prevent healthy people from getting sick and prevent asymptomatic carriers from transmitting COVID-19.

Eikenberry, Steffen E., Marina Mancuso, Enahoro Iboi, Tin Phan, Kennan Eikenberry, Yang Kuang, Eric Kostelich, Abba B. Gumel. 2020. To mask or not to mask: modeling the potential for face mask use by the general public to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic. *Infectious Disease Modeling* (5). Published online 21 April 2020. Accessed online July 12, 2020.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468042720300117?via%3Dihub>

Thank you for considering a YES vote on the mask ordinance at Wednesday's Tulsa City Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Baty, RDH, BS
ODHA 2nd Vice-President-Elect