



July 14, 2020

To: Council Chair Ben Kimbro, Councilor Vice-Chair Vanessa Hall-Harper and Councilors Jeannie Cue, Crista Patrick, Kara Joy McKee, Cass Fahler, Connie Dodson, Lori Decter Wright and Phil Lakin, Jr.

Thank you for your service and leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your time, knowledge and dedication are appreciated and necessary at all times, but your leadership is crucial in times like these, when citizens are looking for guidance to stay safe, keep others safe and maintain a healthy economy.

As you are aware, our hospitals are treating an increasing number of COVID patients, and the patients we are seeing are the sickest we've treated since the beginning of the pandemic. Just a month ago, we were treating 12 inpatients each day. Now, we are treating more than 30 very sick COVID-19 inpatients per day.

The virus is spreading at an alarming rate in our community, which is why we are asking for your help disseminating a shared message about the importance of wearing a face covering, practicing social distancing and proper handwashing, among other precautions. Reducing the spread not only protects our economy, but it also protects our brave caregivers.

As concerned members of the Tulsa medical community, Hillcrest HealthCare System medical staff urge you to give your full support to the ordinance requiring face coverings in public as put forth by Mayor GT Bynum. The data supports face coverings; and it is an effective means to slow the spread of coronavirus, thus protecting our community and finite health care resources. Face coverings are only one factor in how we can protect our fellow citizens. However, at this crucial moment, they are an essential and necessary protective step to reduce the virus spreading further.

As we continue to see cases increase across Tulsa County, we urge our community to support their neighbors and loved ones and wear a cloth mask to help reduce transmission of the virus.

We greatly appreciate your leadership and your support of our health care workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Gross".

Kevin Gross
CEO, Hillcrest HealthCare System