

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to ask for your support of the proposed Tulsa Ordinance requiring that masks be worn in public places. I am a Tulsa not-for-profit provider of long-term care services for our most vulnerable populations. I seek support for the mask proposal as a Tulsa citizen and as health care professional.

Oklahoma is experiencing a meteoric rise in positive COVID-19 cases, with an appalling new 993 cases reported on Tuesday, July 14. The relentless assault of Sars-CoV-2 (Covid -19) on our aging population has taken a disproportionate toll in long term care, but it does not end here. Many of our providers have limited access to PPE, and their staff face increasing risk of infections. Family members are unable to visit elderly residents who experience ongoing isolation as COVID-19 infections loom. Burgeoning COVID-19 infections in the general population threaten Oklahoma's long-term public health, the ability of businesses to remain open, our healthcare work-force, our economy, and our state and municipal budgets.

The one tool that we clearly know we have to stem the ever-growing tide of infection is to mandate masks to be worn in public places. The CDC recommends it. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html> Research and the experience of other countries that have relied upon widespread mask use demonstrates that it will dramatically reduce the spread of infection.

Thank you for considering my request to **support** the Tulsa mask ordinance, to protect the public, and to keep our vulnerable senior residents and staff safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Angela Green, BS, LNHA
President/CEO
Saint Simeon's Senior Living Community