



## Ascension

Mayor G.T. Bynum  
City of Tulsa, Office of the Mayor  
175 E. 2nd St.  
Tulsa, OK 74103

July 14, 2020

Dear Mayor Bynum,

We thank you and the Tulsa City Council for your attention to the importance of wearing masks to help keep residents safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19. We strongly believe, and research supports, that wearing a mask in public, strong hand hygiene and social distancing help reduce the spread and severity of COVID-19 in our communities. Ascension St. John supports sensible mitigation strategies, including requiring face coverings, proactive handwashing, and appropriate social distancing in public places.

As health care providers, we strongly encourage everyone to follow public health precautions, like washing your hands, keeping physical distance and wearing masks. Wearing a mask or face covering over your nose and mouth helps limit the spread of germs to others, protecting everyone no matter their age or health status. While we have much to learn about COVID-19, we do know that everyone in our community plays a crucial role in helping us all stay healthy and safe. Only through the cooperation of everyone can we curb the high number of cases that we are experiencing.

We appreciate the efforts of local businesses and institutions who have implemented mitigation strategies, including mask guidelines and social distancing for their employees, customers and community members. We've seen many organized efforts come together over the past several months to ensure that frontline workers and our most vulnerable community members have access to masks and other protective equipment

As you consider policies addressing mitigation strategies, including requiring the wearing of masks in Tulsa, we recognize the importance of helping our residents obtain the masks they need, especially those most in need. Together, we all must continue to work to support our community members in wearing masks, washing their hands, and adhering to social distancing to help keep each other safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Regards,

Jeffrey D. Nowlin, FACHE, Ascension St. John CEO and Oklahoma Ministry Market Executive

**Ascension**  
1930 S Utica Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74104

918-744-2263  
[ascension.org](http://ascension.org)

