

July 14, 2020

Mayor GT Bynum  
Tulsa City Council Members  
175 East 2nd Street, Fourth Floor  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
Sent via Email

The Oklahoma Nurses Association is the voice for registered nurses representing almost 50,000 registered nurses in Oklahoma. As the largest group of health care providers in the state we are very concerned about the health of Oklahomans and the spread of COVID-19.

Oklahoma's rate of positive COVID-19 cases has drastically increased over the past week. A record of 993 new cases were reported today, July 14, alone! The unrelenting rise in cases is taking its toll, stressing the state's health care system, threatening public education, straining the economy, and wreaking havoc with the state budget.

***Therefore, the Oklahoma Nurses Association supports our state's municipalities that require mask-wearing in public settings.***

The science and the evidence show that wearing a mask reduces the spread of COVID-19, alongside other preventive measures including frequent handwashing and social distancing. Wearing a mask protects us, our loved ones, our economy, and our communities. Everyone benefits when we all wear a mask.

We all must continue to do our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19. In addition, we encourage the Tulsa City Council and Tulsa Health Department to work with community organizations and businesses to develop a plan to provide face coverings in their communities for those who are in need of a mask.

The Oklahoma Nurses Association encourages you as municipality leaders to mandate mask-wearing in your community by passing an ordinance requiring masks. We appreciate what you as municipal leaders do to keep Oklahomans healthy.

Wear a mask, keep Oklahoma open!

Regards,

Karen Taylor, DNP, APRN-CNP, PMHNP-BC  
ONA President 2018 – 2020

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Jane Nelson, CAE  
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