

June 30, 2020

Grover Robinson, Mayor of Pensacola  
Jewel Cannada-Wynn, Council Member and President, District 7  
Jared Moore, Council Member and Vice President, District 4  
P.C. Wu, Council Member, District 1  
Sherri F. Myers, Council Member, District 2  
Andy Terhaar, Council Member, District 3  
John Jerrals, Council Member, District 5  
Ann Hill, Council Member, District 6

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

On March 19, 2020, we submitted a joint letter to the members of the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners stating our unified support for measures that would encourage social distancing and limit the ability for people to congregate for a period of two weeks. On April 21, we submitted another letter to you jointly supporting the gradual easing of some restrictions, with a request for continued actions that would minimize the spread of COVID-19. Today we jointly submit this letter to you in unified support of all citizens wearing masks or cloth face coverings while in public.

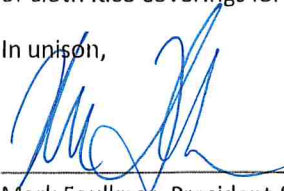
As the positive case counts of COVID-19 continue to rise in our community, and as we see a key driver of this rise being asymptomatic spread, we strongly urge all public to follow the CDC recommendation that people wear masks or cloth face coverings in public settings when around people outside of their household, especially when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain or people choose not to follow social distancing measures. Other than mass closures, masks and cloth face coverings are one of the few tools currently available as we seek to mitigate the spread of the disease while we move into a "new normal" of life with COVID-19 among us. Masks and cloth face coverings are recommended by the CDC as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, raises their voice, or even simply talks.

We know that in our community, this virus is being spread by people who do not display any symptoms and do not know they are infected. This is why it is critically important for everyone to wear masks or cloth face coverings in public settings and to continue to practice social distancing by staying at least 6 feet away from other people. In situations where a safe distance cannot practically be maintained, it becomes even more imperative for every individual – with or without symptoms of the virus – to wear a mask or cloth face covering.

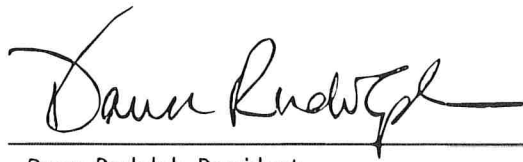
We strongly believe that our community of Pensacola, as one metropolitan statistical area (MSA) would benefit greatly from consistent public masking across both Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. We know our counties and the cities within are interconnected, and this virus does not stop at borders.

We thank you for your continued leadership and collaboration. And we stand united in our support of all wearing masks or cloth face coverings for the protection of our community.

In unison,



Mark Faulkner, President & CEO,  
Baptist Health Care



Dawn Rudolph, President,  
Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital



Gay Nord, CEO,  
West Florida Hospital



Chandra Smiley, Executive Director,  
Community Health Northwest Florida