



There is an established body of evidence that masking and social distancing are two of our most effective public health strategies to limit the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and its growing number of variants. We, the undersigned physicians of your community support the ongoing need to mask in Acadiana.

We supported the statewide masking order issued by the Governor in July as a matter of public health. As medical science works tirelessly to create vaccines, establish effective treatment protocols, produce new testing technologies, we must continue to individually contribute to curb community spread.

COVID positivity and hospitalizations have begun to decline and stabilize in the last two weeks. The numbers have had a pressing impact on hospital operations in Acadiana since last summer. We continue to correlate significant increases in COVID with mask fatigue and large group gatherings without precautions.

Although vaccines have been introduced in our community, the work to fight COVID is not done. The new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus pose a real public health challenge as some new strains may be able to infect 80% of those who suffered previous COVID infection.

The COVID pandemic is a real and ongoing threat to our community's safety, health, and economy. We believe that by wearing a mask and limiting the behaviors that encourage the spread of viral illness, we support local businesses, the local economy, our neighbors, friends, and family.

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