



October 6, 2020

Elected officials,

As a group of health-care leaders in northwest Missouri, northeast Kansas and southeast Nebraska, our goal is simple with this letter: to encourage you to take action to significantly increase the number of people who wear masks, social distance when possible and practice good hand hygiene as the pandemic continues. Maintaining these simple steps would not only help to keep our families, friends, and communities as safe as possible, they also protect the economy.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have urged people to protect themselves, their neighbors, and their loved ones amidst the worst global health crisis in generations. After months of physical distancing and staying at home, infections and deaths stayed at low levels and/or began to decline. But in the weeks and months since reopening, some of the steps that were critical to the progress made were abandoned. We are now experiencing rising rates of infections, erasing our hard-won gains.

Therefore we, along with physicians, nurses, hospital, and health-system workers, are urging you to take action to protect citizens' health and follow the simple steps we know help stop the spread of this virus. We thank those leaders who already have taken action in their communities to encourage behaviors that prevent the spread of disease. Your actions are critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19.

Moving forward, we must all remain vigilant and continue taking the necessary steps to mitigate the spread of the virus to protect each other, our loved ones, our economy and our communities. There is only one way we will get through this – together.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our request during this historic and uncertain time.

Your continued partners in health,

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Maryville, MO

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