



June 23, 2020

Dear Members of the Pasco County Board of Commissioners:

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has changed a lot of things in our lives including how we take care of our community. For AdventHealth it meant taking extra steps to protect and keep our community safe with enhanced safety measures at our hospitals, emergency rooms, urgent care centers and physician offices - because the safety of our community is our top priority.

To keep our community healthy outside of our doors, we thank you and support your decision to implement a mask ordinance for the county. We think this is the right thing to do and would be an effective reminder that we are all in this together.

As you know, over the past several days, we have seen a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases here in Pasco County and the Tampa Bay area. We are concerned that transmission appears to be rising as people become less cautious about social distancing and mask utilization.

A few months ago, there was little data on whether masks reduce disease transmission. But as we learn more about COVID-19, science is becoming more evident. New studies suggest that masks are among the best tools that we have to prevent community transmission of COVID-19. A review published earlier this month in [The Lancet](#) analyzed 172 observational studies from 16 countries and found that the available data suggests that wearing masks protects the general public from infection.

By wearing masks in public spaces, we protect ourselves and our friends and neighbors – especially those with risk factors that make them more vulnerable. Thank you for helping us keep our community healthy and for helping us put safety first.

In good health,

Bruce Bergherm, SEO Acute Care Services  
AdventHealth, West Florida Division

Erik Wangsness, President & CEO  
AdventHealth Wesley Chapel

Amanda Maggard, President & CEO  
AdventHealth Dade City and AdventHealth Zephyrhills

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