



Herb B. Kuhn  
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November 13, 2020

The Honorable Mike Parson  
Governor of Missouri  
Missouri State Capitol  
201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 216  
Jefferson City, MO 65101-1556

Dear Governor Parson:

Missouri's hospitals have closely worked with you and your administration to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have accomplished much, and we deeply appreciate your personal engagement in the effort. During 2020, you and your key staff participated in more than 20 conversations with the Missouri Hospital Association membership to exchange ideas and information.

Although the pandemic response road was full of challenges, conditions eventually improved to the point that a controlled social and economic reopening became possible in June. It was a welcome respite in the battle against the coronavirus

However, the virus is unbowed. It continues its silent and ceaseless replication wherever it finds opportunity. Unfortunately, it is finding ample targets and is spreading quickly. By many metrics, current conditions are far worse than they were this spring.

Certainly, those ominous metrics capture the current realities of many Missouri hospitals. They are struggling mightily with the latest resurgence of COVID-19. The duration and intensity of the effort is exhausting the ranks of frontline workers. For them, the second wave of the disease is more daunting than the first, even if they are better equipped with personal protective equipment, ventilators and new therapeutics than they were at the outset of the pandemic.

We support efforts to educate, cajole and encourage Missourians to wear masks and engage in social distancing to curb the virus' spread. Hospitals are investing in the effort, as is Missouri state government. Your public comments reiterate that Missourians should do the right thing.

But it is not enough. The wolf is at the door. Missouri's hospitals urge you to issue a statewide masking mandate. A mask mandate may be unappealing to some, but it has become necessary. We urge your immediate action on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Herb B. Kuhn", is written over a horizontal line.

Herb B. Kuhn  
President and CEO

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