

Mayor Bill Lambert
Moscow City Council
206 E Third St.
Moscow, ID 83843

November 9, 2020

Dear Mayor Lambert and Members of the Moscow City Council:

I am writing this letter as the Chief Medical Officer for Gritman Medical Center on behalf of the hospital's leadership team. We strongly support the continuation of the city's emergency pandemic response measures including enforcement of the mask mandate. These measures should be continued indefinitely until such time that our local and state public health officials, in close coordination with local health care leaders, have determined these measures as no longer necessary to protect public health.

As a community of health professionals, we always look to the best-available science from our professional associations—such as the American Medical Association—and the most reputable, peer-reviewed sources—such as the New England Journal of Medicine—to guide our decisions. Trusted sources such as these have consistently agreed on the effectiveness of face masks, among other measures, in slowing the transmission of the disease.

In fact, there is universal consensus among all major medical associations on the effectiveness of—and the urgent continued need for—these simple but effective measures:

- Wearing cloth face coverings in public;
- Keeping at least 6 feet of social distance;
- Frequent washing and sanitizing of hands and shared surfaces;
- Limiting gatherings with individuals from outside your immediate household when appropriate safety precautions cannot be maintained;
- Self-isolating and contacting a doctor's office if you become ill;
- Getting a COVID-19 test if ordered by a physician; and
- Assisting public health authorities with contact tracing if you receive a positive COVID-19 test result.

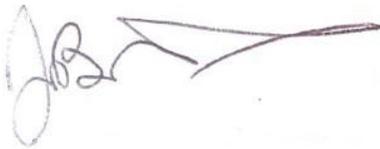
These simple and low-cost measures are absolutely proven to slow and prevent the spread of the disease. This is critically important now that we have entered the cold and flu season of colder weather which naturally brings people together indoors, increasing the rate of

transmission. These measures protect the vulnerable and help to keep our society as open as possible.

Unfortunately, there is a large amount of disinformation and harmful politicization circulating regarding the pandemic. We strongly encourage the public to look to the best-available science and to trust information from the most reputable sources such as their local hospital, medical community and public health officials. Visit gritman.org/coronavirus for more information.

Gritman Medical Center strongly supports the continuation of the pandemic emergency measures as put in place by the City of Moscow. Our community is safer for having taken these actions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Brown', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. John Brown
Chief Medical Officer