



Sept. 8, 2020

Dear Physicians,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues in our communities and across the nation, we want to ensure you have the tools to advise your patient's families on how to stay safe. Therefore, the Texas Pediatric Society, the Texas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (TPS), and the Texas Medical Association (TMA) have developed a letter that you can distribute to your patient families with guidance about wearing masks.

The guidance in this letter was developed by TPS and TMA physician members and it is aligned with recommendations on face coverings issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The letter contains information about the importance of masks, an explanation on mask exemption letters, and tips for helping children become accustomed to wearing masks.

TPS and TMA believe it is crucial for pediatricians to underscore the importance of masks. Data clearly shows wearing of masks can slow the spread of COVID-19 (also known as SARS2 coronavirus or SARS-CoV-2 infection), which is why it is such an important part of the safety measures for schools this fall. The CDC and AAP recommend anyone 2 years of age and older wear a mask/face covering. TPS and TMA strongly support this recommendation. Therefore, we encourage practices not to provide mask exemption letters or sign mask exemption forms for children unless certain conditions are present. These conditions are outlined in the attached letter to patient families. If, however, you determine that one or more of these conditions are met for mask exemption, we have provided a form for use in your practice.

We hope you find these resources helpful in your practice environment. Thank you for the important work you do each day to promote the health and welfare of children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tammy Camp, MD'.

Tammy Camp, MD
President, Texas Pediatric Society

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana L. Fite, MD'.

Diana L. Fite, MD
President, Texas Medical Association