



**Ascension
Saint Thomas**

October 28, 2020

Mayor Bill Kentron
105 N Maple Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Send via email: bketron@rutherfordcountyttn.gov
and regular mail Tracking #9114 9023 0722 4478 8116 05

Dear Mayor Bill Ketron,

On behalf of the medical staff of Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital, I strongly endorse your decision to reinstate the mask mandate in Rutherford County on 10/28/2020.

Unfortunately, we have observed a spike in COVID-19 cases since the lift of the mandate on September 22, 2020. It appears that the lifting of the mandate and the increase in hospitalizations due to the coronavirus are linked. We have had our highest numbers of COVID-19 cases hospitalized since the mask mandate has been lifted.

Our medical staff has a fear that without Rutherford County residents wearing masks the virus will spread unimpeded throughout our county and cause even higher numbers of COVID-19 patients to need inpatient hospital care. If these numbers continue to rise it could strain the ability of our hospital to care for these patients due to a lack of capacity.

Our hospital will be more than cooperative to have dialogue with you when you are deciding to lift the mask mandate in the future. The cases that we have in the hospital can serve as an indicator for you on how widespread this virus is in our community.

We certainly appreciate your leadership in this great county of ours and we stand ready to assist you in anything that you need from us to keep Rutherford County as safe and healthy as possible.

Sincerely,

David M. Sellers, MD, MBA
Chief of Staff
Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital

Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford
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Murfreesboro, TN 37129

ascension.org