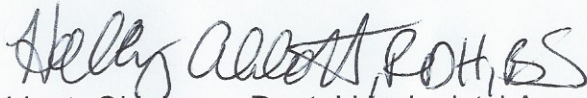


July 13, 2020

The ODHA Executive Board supports local government efforts to address the wearing of masks to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Holly Abbott, RDH, BS



President- Oklahoma Dental Hygienists' Association

Evidence-based research supporting this statement:

A study published in *Physics of Fluids* shows "...that the use of face masks will reduce the airborne droplet transmission and will also protect the wearer from the droplets expelled from other subjects." This study also showed that for people wearing a mask the majority of droplets will travel about half the distance compared to those not wearing a mask.

Dbouk, Talib and Dimitiris Drikakis. May 2020. On Respiratory Droplets and Face Masks. *Physics of Fluids* (32). Published online 16 June 2020. Accessed online July 11, 2020.

<https://aip.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/5.0015044>

"Our results suggest use of face masks by the general public is potentially of high value in containing community transmission and the burden of the pandemic. The community wide benefits are likely to be greatest when face masks are used in conjunction with other non-pharmaceutical practices (such as social-distancing), and when adoption is nearly universal (nation-wide) and compliance is high." This study also found that masks help prevent healthy people from getting sick and prevent asymptomatic carriers from transmitting COVID-19.

Eikenberry, Steffen E., Marina Mancuso, Enahoro Iboi, Tin Phan, Kennan Eikenberry, Yang Kuang, Eric Kostelich, Abba B. Gumel. 2020. To mask or not to mask: modeling the potential for face mask use by the general public to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic. *Infectious Disease Modeling* (5). Published online 21 April 2020. Accessed online July 12, 2020.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468042720300117?via%3Dihub>