

# Take masking and social distancing serious

Dear Editor:

As doctors and medical providers, we feel a responsibility to ask the residents of our county to take masking and social distancing more seriously right now.

For most of us, symptoms of COVID-19 will be mild, so we might feel like masks aren't helpful. The goal of the masks though is to prevent spread to our friends and family who will get a severe case, and now is a bad time to get a severe case of COVID-19.

When COVID-19 originally hit our county, we were fortunate to have plenty of ICUs in the surrounding area that could accept severely affected patients and treat them.

Currently, ICU beds in all directions are full or nearly full. This could leave our most vulnerable friends and family undertreated if they get infected with COVID-19 during the present surge.

There is currently no vaccine or direct treatment for COVID-19, but slowing the spread of it can help ICU beds be available when we need them.

Please accept a little temporary discomfort by wearing your mask and limiting contact with others.

If you wear a mask and social distance, you have our respect for it. It's not a sign that you are caving into governmental pressure, nor is it a mark of fearfulness.

Rather, it shows that you choose to protect other people. Wearing a mask and social distancing are simply the right and responsible things to do right now.

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