

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Values. Ethics. Advocacy.

November 17, 2020

CONTACT:

Elizabeth Reiss
Director of Communications
South Dakota State Medical Association
ereiss@sdsma.org

Statement attributable to Benjamin C. Aaker, MD, SDSMA president:

SDSMA Statement in Support of Mask Mandate

To show respect and compassion for physicians, other frontline healthcare providers and everyone in our communities, the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) urges South Dakotans to help preserve our healthcare workforce by practicing good hygiene, physical distancing, and wearing masks when in public settings or around others. Helping preserve our workforce means keeping more doctors, nurses, and other professionals able to care for you, the people of South Dakota. The SDSMA supports masking and will continue to plead with the public to wear face masks in public. We strongly support a statewide mandate and, in communities considering mask mandates, we support local mask mandates. The CDC has affirmed that wearing masks can help communities slow the spread of COVID-19 when worn consistently and correctly by a majority of people in public settings. Wearing a mask not only protects others from your expelled respiratory droplets, it protects you as well. Masks work to decrease the risk of infection for everyone.