

Dear Honorable Members of the Texas Legislature:

We, the undersigned, are physicians, nurses, and other health care providers who serve diverse populations across the state of Texas. We write with great concern about the [recent surge of COVID-19 cases](#) in Texas, particularly among the unvaccinated and pediatric population. Many [Texas hospitals have already run out of ICU beds](#) and we fear that hospitalizations will continue to increase as Texas students head back to school and cooler weather brings more Texans indoors for longer periods of time.

Although the Delta variant is even more contagious than previous strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, there are fewer state public health protocols in place today than were in place one year ago to help slow down the spread of COVID-19. Instead, state lawmakers seek to prevent cities, counties, and school districts from imposing masking, social distancing, contact tracing, and occupancy requirements, even though these are proven public health interventions that, combined with vaccination, are essential to containing the COVID-19 pandemic and allowing businesses and schools to remain open safely.

As healthcare providers, we know that no two patients are alike and that, to truly serve a patient, we must be able to meet their individual needs. Texans expect the same science-based thinking from their state leaders. Each community is different, each facing unique challenges, and local officials must be able to take the actions necessary to keep their constituents safe.

We call on our state legislature to reject any attempt to restrict the ability of local elected officials to implement these effective, evidence-based public health interventions at this time, including any attempt to limit masking requirements at Texas schools or workplaces. We urge you to oppose [HB 141](#), [HB 127](#), [SB 14](#), [HB 10](#), and any other similar legislation.

Sincerely,

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