



TEXAS  
PHYSICAL THERAPY  
ASSOCIATION

For Immediate Release

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## **Texas Physical Therapy Association Urges All Texans to Continue Wearing a Mask, Practice Social Distancing, Wash Hands Frequently and Get the Vaccine When Eligible**

Although Governor Greg Abbott has issued an executive order lifting the statewide mask mandate effective March 10<sup>th</sup>, TPTA joins our colleagues in the healthcare professions in urging all Texans to continue following the CDC guidelines and wear a mask, practice social distancing, continue frequent hand washing and get vaccinated as soon as you are eligible to do so.

“Most, if not all, of the physical therapy clinics across Texas serve medically vulnerable individuals among their patients,” said Mike Geelhoed, President of the Texas Physical Therapy Association. “The health and safety of our patients remains our top priority when they are under our care.”

The TPTA urges all Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants to continue to require everyone in their facility to wear a mask at all times and to encourage their patients to wear a mask anytime they are out in public. As Gov. Abbott said when he issued his executive order, personal responsibility and personal vigilance are still needed to contain the COVID-19 virus.

“It is our duty as healthcare professionals to look out for our patients, our co-workers and ourselves,” said Geelhoed. “Physical Therapists have a 100-year history of doing just that and this is not the time to drop our guard, or our masks.”

Although ultimately this a business decision that each clinic must make individually, the TPTA stresses, in the strongest terms possible, that we should continue to follow the science of the CDC guidelines and do everything in our power to ensure the safety of our patients while they are in our care