



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

Logger Creek Plaza
345 Bobwhite Court, Suite 150
Boise, Idaho 83706
(208) 327-7000

Fax (208) 327-7005
E-Mail info@bom.idaho.gov
Website bom.idaho.gov

Board of Medicine and Idaho Medical Association Statement on Physician Notes for Mask Exemptions

On November 6, 2020 during the Board of Medicine quarterly meeting, the Board adopted the following positions on physician notes for mask exemptions.

It has come to the attention of the Idaho Medical Association (IMA) and Idaho Board of Medicine (BOM) that some Idaho physicians and physician assistants are writing medical exemption notes upon request from patients who do not want to obey mask requirements. The IMA and BOM strongly urge physicians not to write these types of notes. A patient who is too sick to wear a mask should not be in public with an acute illness. The IMA and BOM advise physicians to resist philosophical objection requests for medical notes to circumvent mask mandates.

IMA and BOM thank those of you who are doing your part in helping turn the tide of this pandemic. Your actions and guidance to patients are critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19. We must all remain vigilant and continue taking steps to mitigate the spread of the virus to protect our Idaho communities. Widespread mask-wearing is a major step forward to ensure our schools and businesses can remain open for in-person interaction – this benefits children, families, workers and our economy.