



## OFFICE POLICY REGARDING PPE

People occasionally ask us about our policy of not requiring face masks for our patients and our staff not wearing PPE (such as face masks and gloves). This is not a policy of carelessness but rather is rooted in the ancient Hippocratic Oath of *primum non nocere*, “first do no harm.” That ancient principle only makes sense in the context of a mutual covenant of trust between physician and patient. Both our office philosophy and the reason why trust is foundational to the physician-patient relationship is outlined in Dr. Yeager’s 2018 book *Transforming Healthcare Together*. While we aim to provide care for everyone who comes to our office, we’ve always believed that distrust hinders care, and hence our office is not a good fit for those who may disagree with our philosophy.

The year 2020 has certainly been a challenging year for everyone with the worldwide coronavirus outbreak! Unfortunately, we’ve seen many medical bodies reverse decades of medical wisdom and understanding almost overnight. Universal masking—which prior to Covid was never recommended but, in fact, discouraged—is predicated on **two false assumptions**: 1) that face masks actually help in preventing viral transmission; and 2) that healthy people are asymptomatic spreaders of Covid-19. There have been “masked mandates” in place for months now, which is generally not how “emergencies” operate. In addition to these two false assumptions, the long-term effects of mask-wearing have not been studied. We are already seeing negative effects to this. Yet a nearly universal policy has been implemented in spite of this, which in our opinion violates the *primum non nocere* first principle of medicine.

We’ve seen an illness which is essentially no different than a severe case of influenza become highly polarizing and politicized. In our combined 40 years of clinical experience, we’ve never seen such dishonest reporting of the facts surrounding this. We are not alone in our understanding and questioning of this, but are joined by thousands of other physician-scientists who have called into question public health policy regarding coronavirus—including the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), America’s Frontline Doctors, and the 50,000 physician/scientist signatories of the Great Barrington Declaration. Unfortunately, most of these attempts to genuinely care for patients and advance public health policy on the basis of truth and evidence get vilified and ostracized in today’s media.

Since this practice’s founding in 2011, we have always employed rigorous sanitation measures, including frequent hand-washing before and after patient care and disinfectant of rooms and door handles between patient care. We have continued those policies with extra care during 2020. Unless we are in a high-risk situation (which we presently are not) or performing a procedure, we feel that the routine use of gloves

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and face masks/shields has more long-term psychological harm to patients and families than good. Evidence of that is already emerging. Routine use of gloves and masks undermines the very first principle of medicine referenced above. We are grateful to report that our office sanitation policies have served us extremely well, and we know of no illness ever transmitted through our office—despite the fact that we’ve treated dozens of Covid patient cases in our office. (We currently have protocols in place to keep sick people separate from healthy people.) Chapters 2 and 5 of *Coronavirus and the Leadership of the Christian Church* are written by Dr. Yeager in response to the above.

As a private medical office on the grounds of our private property, it is our responsibility to ensure the best standard of care to our patient population. While admittedly our office has a unique perspective, we believe that it is what best serves our patients overall and ultimately provides superior care. Know that we take all of our patients’ concerns to heart and that we remain committed to the most excellent standard of care. We encourage you to purchase our books as well as visit our website for more information.



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