For Immediate Release: February 4, 2021

Contact: Mark Grapentine, JD Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer mark.grapentine@wismed.org

WisMed Statement on Legislature Canceling Masking Order

The following statement can be attributed to Wisconsin Medical Society CEO Bud Chumbley, MD regarding today's action by the State Legislature to nullify Governor Tony Evers' Executive Order #104, and therefore ending the statewide facial coverings requirement implemented under that Order:

"Wisconsin's physicians continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, and we need everyone in the state to help. Wearing masks is a proven way to help slow the spread of the virus, and recent studies show that government requirements on masks prompt more people to wear masks more often. Meanwhile, new variants of the virus that spread faster and could be more deadly have reached the United States.

"Today's action by the State Legislature ending the statewide mask order sends the wrong message at the wrong time. Instead, we need all of our policy leaders to unify behind the same message: wear a mask to protect yourself and others, prevent additional deaths and restore our economy."

###

With more than 10,000 members dedicated to the best interests of their patients, the <u>Wisconsin Medical Society</u> is the largest association of medical doctors in the state and a trusted source for health policy leadership since 1841.