

Cinderela
Guevara



Presidio County Judge

March 11th, 2021

**PRESS RELEASE, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
IMPACT OF COVID-19**

Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-34 ended the 8 month long statewide mask mandate and increased the capacity of all businesses and facilities to 100 percent effective as of yesterday, March 10th. This makes Texas the largest state to lift orders that have been intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Masks will still be required at all county run buildings.

If COVID-19 hospitalizations in any of the 22 hospital regions in Texas get above 15% of the hospital bed capacity in that region for 7 straight days, a County Judge in that region may use COVID-19 mitigation strategies. The current rate of hospitalizations in our region is below 15%.

<https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/>.

Private businesses may, at their discretion, still limit capacity and require patrons to wear masks, even though it's no longer a state mandate.

While I have a high regard and respect for Governor Abbott, I strongly disagree with removing the mandatory mask requirement because this could cause a surge in COVID cases and potentially lead to mutations of the virus called variants.

When face masks are worn properly, they can block respiratory droplets of COVID-19 produced when an infected person coughs.

With the current Spring Break and the upcoming Easter vacation, we must continue to be vigilant regarding increased risk of socializing and of travel which could lead to increased COVID transmission. Please remain vigilant with both social distancing and wearing masks.

Doctor Rachel Sonne, Regional Medical Director Region 9/10, Texas Department of State Health Services has stated, "Even folks who have been completely

vaccinated should continue to wear masks, and consider quarantining before and after increased socialization, especially if you live with or are socializing with people who are unvaccinated or at increased risk of severe COVID.”

During Governor Abbott’s announcement in Lubbock on March 2nd, 2021, he stated:

“Under no circumstances can a County Judge put anyone in jail for not following COVID orders and no penalties can be imposed for failing to wear a face mask.”

However, COVID-19 has not disappeared. Please do not abandon the safe practices that we have mastered over the past year and please remember each person has a role to play in their own personal safety and the safety of others.

The CDC continues to recommend that people wear masks in public settings, at events and gatherings, and anywhere they will be around other people.

Thank you and please keep our community safe!

Cinderela Guevara

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