



**ADVISORY RELATING TO
WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS AT COMMERCIAL
ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

DATE ISSUED: June 26, 2020

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a National State of Emergency under the Stafford Act to combat the growing COVID-19 pandemic in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott declared a State of Disaster for all 254 Counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Texas Commissioner of Public Health issued a Declaration of Public Health Disaster in the State of Texas, that provides recommendations such as limiting public outings unless essential as defined in the Declaration; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, Guadalupe County Judge Kyle Kutscher declared a local disaster due to a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has issued executive orders in an effort to combat the spread of COVID-19 throughout the state and to prevent the depletion of hospital capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas made recommendations, in consultation with state health officials, for safely and strategically revitalizing the Texas economy during our recovery from the COVID-19 disaster and the Governor announced a statewide Phase 1 Plan to Open Texas on April 27th ; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas and Guadalupe County must protect lives while restoring livelihoods, both of which can be achieved with the expert advice of medical and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence has proven that COVID-19 is a highly communicable disease that has affected people to varying degrees, depending upon age and health condition, and it has the potential to affect a significant portion of the local population based on the current rate of community transmission, placing increased persons at risk for serious health complications, resulting in hospitalization and possibly death; and

WHEREAS, based on guidance from our regional public health authority, it is strongly suggested that face coverings be worn while in public or visiting commercial establishments, and to maintain at least six (6) feet distance between individuals in order to help slow community transmission of COVID-19 within the County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF GUADALUPE COUNTY, TEXAS, FACE COVERINGS OR MASK SHOULD BE WORN BY ALL WHEN IN PUBLIC WHERE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN AT LEAST SIX (6) FEET OF DISTANCE BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS.

Section 1. Health and Safety Policy-Commercial Entities and Employees only. From this date, all commercial entities operating in the Guadalupe County, that provide goods or services directly to the public must develop and implement a health and safety policy ("Health and Safety Policy"). The Health and Safety Policy should include, at a minimum, that all employees and visitors to the commercial entity's business premises or other facilities wear face coverings when in an area or performing an activity which will necessarily involve close contact or proximity to co-workers or the public where (6) feet of separation is not feasible. Additional mitigating measures designed to control and reduce the transmission of COVID-19, such as temperature checks or health screenings.

Section 2. Face Coverings-General Public. That all people 10 years or older should wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in a public place where it is difficult to keep six feet away from other people or working in areas that involve close proximity with other people or co-workers. The CDC recommends face coverings for people 2 years or older. *Face coverings* may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief. County residents should continue to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while outside their home. County employees should also wear face coverings under the same circumstances as the general public.

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU NOT OBTAIN OR WEAR MEDICAL MASKS OR N-95 RESPIRATORS AS THEY ARE A NEEDED RESOURCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.

Our health care workers and first responders on the front-line combating COVID-19 must have priority access to medical masks or other personal protective equipment. Face coverings do not need to be worn in the following circumstances:

- When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside
- While driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver
- When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk
- While pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment
- While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, for example, banks
- When consuming food or drink

Please note that face coverings are a secondary strategy to other mitigation efforts. Face coverings are not a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick. All people should follow CDC recommendations for how to properly wear and take off a face covering. Residents should keep up the following personal hygiene habits while in public places:

- Washing hands before you leave home and when you return,
- Staying at least six feet away from others,
- Avoiding touching your nose or face,
- Not using disposable masks more than three times, and
- Washing reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Section 3. **Essential County Business.** County residents are encouraged to conduct essential county business online, by phone, via regular mail, or alternative means in order to avoid visiting any county facilities, unless it is absolutely necessary.

Signed the 26th day of June 2020.



Kyle Kutscher, Guadalupe County Judge

Teresa Kiel, Guadalupe County Clerk