

## FAQS

### FEDERAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVES GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS<sup>1</sup> CITY OF DALLAS EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

#### I. BUSINESSES AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS.

There are no COVID-19-related operating limits for any business or other establishment.

In providing or obtaining services, every person (including individuals, businesses, and other legal entities) is strongly encouraged to use good-faith efforts and available resources to follow the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) health recommendations, found at [www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus).

Nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities should follow guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) regarding visitations, and should follow infection control policies and practices set forth by HHSC, including minimizing the movement of staff between facilities whenever possible.

Public schools may operate as provided by, and under the minimum standard health protocols found in, guidance issued by the Texas Education Agency. Private schools and institutions of higher education are encouraged to establish similar standards.

County and municipal jails should follow guidance from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards regarding visitations.

#### II. VACCINES.

No governmental entity can compel any individual to receive a COVID-19 vaccine administered under an emergency use authorization.

State agencies and political subdivisions shall not adopt or enforce any order, ordinance, policy, regulation, rule, or similar measure that requires an individual to provide, as a condition of receiving any service or entering any place, documentation regarding the individual's vaccination status for any COVID-19 vaccine administered under an emergency use authorization. This paragraph does not apply to any documentation requirements necessary for the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Any public or private entity that is receiving or will receive public funds through any means, including grants, contracts, loans, or other disbursements of taxpayer money, shall not require a

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<sup>1</sup> GA-38 effective on July 29, 2021.

consumer to provide, as a condition of receiving any service or entering any place, documentation regarding the consumer's vaccination status for any COVID-19 vaccine administered under an emergency use authorization. No consumer may be denied entry to a facility financed in whole or in part by public funds for failure to provide documentation regarding the consumer's vaccination status for any COVID-19 vaccine administered under an emergency use authorization.

Nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities may require documentation of a resident's vaccination status for any COVID-19 vaccine.

### **III. FACE COVERINGS.**

#### **A. NO STATE-WIDE FACE COVERING ORDER.**

There is no state-imposed mandate requiring face coverings.

In areas where the COVID-19 transmission rate is high, individuals are encouraged to follow the safe practices they have already mastered, such as wearing face coverings over the nose and mouth wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household, but no person may be required by any jurisdiction to wear or to mandate the wearing of a face covering.

Even though face coverings cannot be mandated by any governmental entity, that does not prevent individuals from wearing a face covering if they choose.

#### **B. PROHIBITION ON GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AND OFFICIALS FROM MANDATING FACE COVERINGS.**

No governmental entity, including a county, city, school district, and public health authority, and no governmental official may require any person to wear a face covering or to mandate that another person wear a face covering; provided, however, that:

- state supported living centers, government-owned hospitals, and government-operated hospitals may continue to use appropriate policies regarding the wearing of face coverings; and
- the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, and any county and municipal jails acting consistent with guidance by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards may continue to use appropriate policies regarding the wearing of face coverings.

## **C. FEDERAL SECURITY DIRECTIVE REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS AT AIRPORTS.**

Federal law requires wearing a mask in or on the airport at all times unless one of the below exceptions applies. MASK means a material covering the nose and mouth of the wearer, excluding face shields.

Refusing to wear a mask in or on the airport is a violation of federal law and individuals may be escorted out of the airport.

### **EXCEPTIONS:**

- When necessary to temporarily remove the mask for identity verification purposes.
- While eating, drinking, or taking oral medications for brief periods. Prolonged periods of mask removal are not permitted for eating or drinking; the mask must be worn between bites and sips.
- While communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, when the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- If unconscious (for reasons other than sleeping), incapacitated, unable to be awakened, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Persons in private conveyances (i.e., aircraft, train, road vehicle, vessel) operated solely for personal, non-commercial use.
- A driver, when operating a commercial motor vehicle if the driver is the sole occupant of the vehicle.
- Children under the age of two.
- People with disabilities who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of the disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- People for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.

## **IV. TESTING AND HOSPITAL BED CAPACITY.**

All hospitals licensed under Chapter 241 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and all Texas state-run hospitals, except for psychiatric hospitals, shall submit to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) daily reports of hospital bed capacity, in the manner prescribed by DSHS. DSHS shall promptly share this information with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Every public or private entity that is utilizing an FDA-approved test, including an emergency use authorization test, for human diagnostic purposes of COVID-19, shall submit to DSHS, as well as to the local health department, daily reports of all test results, both positive and negative. DSHS shall promptly share this information with the CDC.

## V. BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS.

All city boards and commissions shall only meet telephonically or by videoconference.

## VI. ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.

- All employees are instructed to remain home if sick.
- All delivery hour restrictions for transport to or from any entity involved in the selling or distribution of food products, medicine, or medical supplies are suspended in the City of Dallas.
- Employers may not implement any rules making a negative COVID-19 test or a note from a healthcare provider a requirement before a COVID-19 recovered employee can return to work.

## VII. OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS.

For purposes of determining a person's right to possession of and access to a child under a court-ordered possession schedule, the existing trial court order shall control in all instances. Possession of and access to a child shall not be affected by any shelter-in place order or other order restricting movement issued by a governmental entity that arises from the COVID-19 pandemic (pursuant to Supreme Court of Texas order dated March 24, 2020).

Failure to comply with Emergency Regulations or any executive order will not result in confinement in jail. No jurisdiction can confine a person in jail as a penalty for violating any executive order or local order related to COVID-19.

For further inquiries or to report possible violations in the City of Dallas please call **3-1-1**.

For other city information related to the COVID-19: <https://dallascityhall.com/Pages/Corona-Virus.aspx>

For more information from the County, please visit:  
<https://www.dallascounty.org/government/comcrt/jenkins/covid-19.php>  
For further inquiries, please call **2-1-1**.

Physicians may call the DCHHS 24/7 answering service at **1-877-605-2660** for consultation.