

**ORDER BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY****County Judge Order 2021-05; Relating to COVID-19**

Whereas, on March 6, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued by the Travis County Judge to allow the County of Travis (“County” or “Travis County”), Texas, to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Travis County residents; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Greg Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

Whereas, on June 16, 2020, the Travis County Commissioners Court approved an Order adopting a policy to require face coverings in designated County facilities (“Facilities Order”); and

Whereas, on May 18, 2021, the Travis County Commissioners Court approved a Resolution and Order mandating compliance with the Local Health Authority Rules and Order and authorizing enforcement (“Health Authority Order”); and

Whereas, on May 18, 2021, subsequent to the Commissioners Court’s approval of its May 18, 2021 Health Authority Order, the Governor issued Executive Order GA-36 (“GA-36”), which prohibited governmental entities and officials from mandating face coverings, except in limited circumstances (such as hospitals and correctional facilities), and imposing penalties for failure to comply with GA-36 beginning at 11:59 p.m. on May 21, 2021; and

Whereas, after the Commissioners Court approved the Health Authority Order, which mandated compliance with Health Authority Rules and authorized enforcement, the Health Authority amended its Rules and reissued as recommendations and guidance regarding measures to mitigate the spread of COVID 19. The Rules adopted by Commissioners Court Order on May 18, 2021 are no longer in effect; and

Whereas, the Office of Court Administration has stated that that the Governor’s Executive Order issued on May 18, 2021 “does not alter the Supreme Court’s current emergency order, the ability of a judge to control his or her courtroom, or requirements for those entering a court building who will be attending a court proceeding.” “Courts may take any reasonable action to avoid exposing court proceedings to the threat of COVID-19, **including requiring compliance with social distancing protocols and face coverings worn over the nose and mouth.**” Individuals are required to follow the protocols issues by the Courts; and

Whereas, the Austin-Travis County area is at a lower risk rate because our community chooses higher measures of protection to keep our families and those around us safe from COVID-19. We worked so hard to get here, together; and

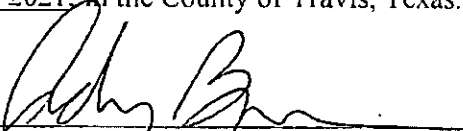
Whereas, pursuant to Government Code section 418.108(g), a County Judge is authorized to control ingress and egress from a local disaster area, and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that disaster area.

NOW THEREFORE, I, COUNTY JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER THAT:

Effective at 11:59 p.m. on May 21, 2021, and continuing until modified or terminated by the Travis County Judge or as otherwise indicated below:

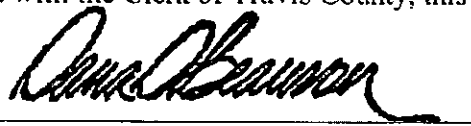
1. Travis County and Travis County facilities shall follow the recommendations and guidance by the Austin Travis County Health Authority dated May 21, 2021, except as provided for and as authorized by law for certain entities to adopt their own rules like courts and correctional facilities (including but not limited to Travis County Jail, Travis County Correctional Complex, and Central Booking).
2. It is recommended that:
 - a. Individuals get vaccinated and encourage others to get vaccinated. This will help us reach herd immunity to benefit our entire community.
 - b. Be COVID Wise – It is recommended that individuals wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Getting fully vaccinated, wearing a mask, and maintaining at least 3 feet of distance provides the highest level of protection from COVID-19 and other airborne diseases.
 - c. Individuals follow the CDC guidance at home and at your place of employment.

ORDERED this the 21st day of May, 2021, in the County of Travis, Texas.



Andy Brown, County Judge
County of Travis, Texas


Filed with the Clerk of Travis County, this 21st day of May, 2021.



Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk



**FILED AND RECORDED
OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS**


Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk
Travis County, Texas

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May 21, 2021 01:14 PM

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