



## FLATONIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 9, 2021

Dear Bulldog Family,

On March 2, 2021, Gov. Greg Abbott issued an Executive Order (GA-34) lifting the mask mandate in Texas and increasing capacity of all businesses and facilities in the state to 100 percent as of Wednesday, March 10. This executive order rescinds most of the Governor's earlier executive orders related to COVID-19. Businesses may still limit capacity or implement additional safety protocols at their own discretion. As it relates to public schools, the order states:

*Public schools may operate as provided by, and under the minimum standard health protocols found in, guidance issued by the Texas Education Agency.*

On March 3, 2021, the Texas Education Agency released updated guidance for Public Schools. Their guidance relating to the use of masks states:

### **Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks**

1. *For the purposes of this document, masks include non-medical and medical grade disposable face masks and cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). Full-face shields may be used in place of a mask to protect eyes, nose, and mouth whenever a mask is not feasible or whenever the education context may benefit from the ability to see an individual's full face.*
2. *Schools must comply with the following requirements:*
  - *Every student, teacher, or staff member shall wear a mask over the nose and mouth when inside a school building, school facility, facility used for school activities, or when in an outdoor space on school property or used for school activities, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household; provided, however, that this mask requirement does not apply to the following:*
    - *Any person younger than 10 years of age, except where a school system determines it is developmentally appropriate;*
    - *Any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a mask;*
    - *Any person while the person is consuming food or drink, or is seated in a dining area to eat or drink;*
    - *Any person while the person is: (a) exercising outdoors or engaging in physical activity outdoors; and (b) maintaining a safe distance from other people not in the same household; or*
    - *Any person while the person is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience.*
  - *The above mask-wearing requirements do not apply to any school system that was exempted from the face covering requirements of Executive Order GA-29 during its effect due to a county judge attestation filed with the Texas Division of Emergency Management.*
  - *The governing board of a school system may modify or eliminate by formal action the above mask-related requirements.*
3. *In addition to the mask-wearing requirements listed above, school systems may require the use of masks or face shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate.*
4. *It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some non-UIL athletic or other extracurricular activities. In situations where masks are required by this guidance and when it is impractical for students to wear masks or face shields during those activities, schools must require students, teachers, staff, and visitors to wear masks or face shields when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaging in those activities. Schools may, for example, allow students who are actively exercising to remove masks or face shields, as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students, teachers, and staff who are not wearing masks or face shields. However, schools must require students, teachers, and staff to wear masks or face shields as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.*

As shared in our earlier communication, the current FISD COVID-19 Safety Protocols align with the above TEA guidelines; therefore, there will be no immediate change to our procedures and expectations, including masks being worn under the same protocols we have used throughout the school year. We are currently in the process of gathering additional information and feedback from parents and district employees on this topic. We encourage you to complete the brief survey found at [www.flatoniaisd.net](http://www.flatoniaisd.net). Information gathered will be shared with our Flatonia ISD COVID-19 Task Force following Spring Break. The COVID-19 Task Force will review our current protocols so that we have the most current and reasonable measures in place to keep our students and staff safe. Any proposed changes to our protocols that conflict with the guidelines established by TEA will be presented to the FISD Board of Trustees for consideration at a posted meeting. Notice of any approved changes will be announced to parents and school district employees. Until such time, all protocols and procedures remain in place.

The safety of our students, faculty, and staff continues to be our top priority. Additional information can be found on district website under the COVID-19: Updates & Resources and Flatonia ISD COVID-19 Protocols buttons. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Andy Reddock, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Flatonia ISD