

File for Record  
at 9:52 o'clock A.M.

AUG 13 2021

Elvaray B. Silvas  
County Clerk, Brooks County, Texas  
By: *[Signature]* Deputy

**ORDER OF COUNTY JUDGE ERIC RAMOS ON REQUIRED USE OF A FACE MASK IN CERTAIN PUBLIC SPACES**

DATE ORDER ISSUED: August 13, 2021

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), Brooks County Judge Eric Ramos declared a state of local disaster on March 16, 2020, due to imminent threat arising from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), on March 18, 2020, the Brooks County Commissioners Court approved an Order Continuing the Declaration a State Local Disaster for Brooks County. On March 27, 2020 and June 1, 2020, the Brooks County Commissioners Court again approved an order Continuing the Declaration of the Stat of Local Disaster for Brooks County;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the consent by the Commissioners Court authorizes the Brooks County Judge to continue to exercise the powers granted by the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 for the period specified and take such actions as are necessary in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Brook County by the issuance of executive orders (each, as "Executive Order.")

WHEREAS, there currently still exists a declaration of public health disaster in and for the State of Texas as declared by Texas Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the transmission of COVID-19 has not dissipated but a significant threat to the health and safety of the Brooks County community;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus has mutated and developed more contagious strains, such as the Delta variant. The Delta variant has resulted in the fastest rise in hospitalizations throughout the state since the beginning of the pandemic. Hospitals and medical professionals in the Brooks County area report dwindling ICU and hospital capacities;

**WHEREAS;** in consultation with the local emergency management team, the County judge has determined that extraordinary emergency measures must be continued in order to try and mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate a response to the public health threat presented by the COVID-19 Delta variant in Brooks County;

**WHEREAS;** a County Judge is authorized to control ingress to and egress from a disaster area and control the movement of persons and occupancy of premises on an appropriate local scale in accordance with the Section 418.108(g) of the Texas Government Code and his authority as Emergency Management Director; and

**PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS DISASTER ACT OF 1975, BROOKS COUNTY JUDGE ERIC RAMOS HEREBY ISSUES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:**

Effective as of 12:00 P.M. on Friday, August 13, 2021 and continuing until fourteen (14) days following the termination of the state-wide public health emergency as declared by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, unless extended, modified or terminated early by Brooks County Judge Eric Ramos or as otherwise indicated below:

- 1. Health and Safety Policy – Brooks County ISD.** From the date of this Executive Order, Public Schools operating in Brooks County must develop and implement a health and safety policy ("Health and Safety Policy"). The Health and Safety Policy must require, at a minimum, universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to public schools, regardless of vaccination status, except for children under 2 years of age. The Health and Safety Policy required to be developed and implemented by this Executive Order may also include the implementation of other mitigating measure recommend by the CDC to control and reduce the transmission of COVID-19, such as maintaining at least 3 feet physical distance between students within a classroom.
- 2. Face Coverings – Brooks County Offices, other Brooks County Facilities, Falfurrias City Hall and all other municipal facilities in Falfurrias.** As soon as practical following the Effective date of the Executive order, All employees and contractors, visitors and members of the public (3 years of age or older) are required to wear a face covering when entering Brooks County buildings facilities as well as City of Falfurrias municipal facilities and throughout their visit, unless the contractor, visitor, or member of the public has a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. Brooks County and City of Falfurrias employees are required to wear face coverings when entering Brooks County and City of Falfurrias buildings and other facilities and must do so wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person or when working in areas that involve close proximity with other coworkers, unless the employee has a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering.

**Face Coverings – General Public.** Emergency management officials encourage every person 3 years or older in Brooks County to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public, or when in an outdoor public space, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household or when in areas that involve close proximity to others. Face coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief.

**Health and Safety Policy – Commercial Entities.** All commercial entities in Brooks County providing goods or services directly ("Health and Safety Policy"). The Health and Safety Policy required by this Executive Order should be developed by the commercial entity after considering the specific needs of its business operation and services provided in light of current State orders public health guidance. While the commercial entity should implement the Health and Safety Policy which best fits its business needs in consideration of the specific health risks presented by its operations, commercial entities may consider the following elements to include in their Health and Safety Policy:

- i) Requiring employees, customers and other visitors to wear facemasks;
- ii) Requiring customers to maintain six feet of separation;
- iii) Implementing voluntarily developing occupancy limitations; or
- iv) Implementing screening procedures such as temperature checks or health screens.

Nothing in this Executive Order requires a commercial entity to adopt any specific recommendation. However, all commercial entities must post a Health and Safety Policy once adopted in a conspicuous location sufficient to provide clear notice to all employees, customers and visitors of any health and safety requirements implemented by the commercial entity, including any policy on wearing a face mask. If an individual is refusing to comply with the entity Health and Safety Policy, then the commercial entity may call on legally authorized officials to remove any individuals refusing to comply with its adopted Health and safety Policy from its premises in accordance with trespassing laws,

Business in Brooks County are encouraged to do the following:

- Wear face masks
- Practice physical distancing
- Conduct temperature checks
- Provide hand sanitizer
- Follow CDC protocols
- Implement contactless payment when possible
- General COVID-19 awareness training for employees


Ordered the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021



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Eric Ramos  
Brooks County Judge

Attestment:



Elvaray Silvas  
Brooks County Clerk