

## Health and Safety Policy for Tarrant County Buildings and Facilities

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, it is the policy of Tarrant County to require the following:

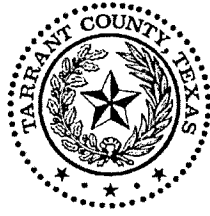
**1. FACE COVERING REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ENTER AND REMAIN ON PREMISES.** All persons over the age of ten (10), including employees, customers, visitors, invitees and contractors, who enter to work or conduct business in a County building must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth pursuant to the following guidelines:

- Individuals, including employees, must wear a face covering in all public areas. This includes entering and exiting the building, and while in an elevator.
- Face coverings must be worn by all persons who have a conversation within six (6) feet of each other.
- Face coverings must be worn when going from point A to point B. In other words, if you leave your primary work area, you must wear a face covering.
- Face coverings may be removed by employees once the employee reaches their primary work area so long as the employee is not within six (6) feet of another individual.
- Employees working in a high traffic area are not required to wear a face covering every time someone walks by the work area; however, the person walking by must wear a face covering.
- The requirement of a face covering does not apply if covering the nose and mouth poses a significant mental or physical health risk to the individual. If you are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition, please privately discuss these concerns with your supervisor or Human Resources. Individuals so affected will be required to provide a note from their physician.

**2. SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS.** Even with the use of appropriate face coverings, individuals should maintain six feet of social distancing whenever possible.

**3. VIOLATIONS.** Individuals who do not wear a face covering will be asked to leave the premises and will not be provided goods or services until the face covering requirements are followed.

**4. NOTICE AND SIGNAGE.** Notice of this Health and Safety Policy will be posted in a conspicuous location of the business.



## TARRANT COUNTY

### EXECUTIVE ORDER TERMINATING PRIOR ORDER DATED February 23, 2021

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Texas Government Code § 418.108, Tarrant County Judge B. Glen Whitley issued a Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency on March 13, 2020, in response to the imminent threat of widespread illness from COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Local Disaster declared on March 13, 2020 has remained in place continuously since such date; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Greg Abbott, on April 17, 2020, suspended Sections 418.1015(b) and 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter E of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and any other relevant statutes to the extent necessary to ensure that local officials do not impose restrictions in response to the COVID-19 disaster that were inconsistent with the Governor's executive orders; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Greg Abbott, on June 17, 2020, stated that local governments can require stores and businesses to require masks; and

**WHEREAS**, I, Tarrant County Judge B. Glen Whitley, on June 25, 2020, issued an Executive Order requiring all entities in Tarrant County, including sole proprietorships, providing goods or services directly to the public to develop and implement a health and safety policy to help stop the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Greg Abbott, on July 2, 2020, issued Executive Order GA-29 which requires individuals to wear face coverings over the nose and mouth in certain circumstances to help slow the spread of COVID 19; and

**WHEREAS**, there currently still exists a declaration of public health disaster in and for the State of Texas as declared by Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and locally by the approval of the Sixth Amended Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency issued and renewed by Commissioners Court action on February 23, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Order issued on June 25, 2020 was extended by Executive Order on July 31, 2020, August 25, 2020, November 24, 2020, and February 23, 2021; and


**WHEREAS**, on March 2, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA-34 (GA-34) substantially modifying restrictions on businesses and other establishments located throughout the state and limiting the regulatory authority of local jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, Tarrant County is currently not in an area with high hospitalizations as defined in GA-34.

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 418 and the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, be It **Proclaimed** and **ORDERED** that upon my signature below, the Executive Order issued on February 23, 2021, is hereby **TERMINATED**, effective immediately, and I hereby further **ORDER** the following:

1. Entities in Tarrant County providing goods or services to the public are no longer **required** to implement a health and safety policy that at a minimum requires that face coverings be worn on the entity's business premises; and
2. Nothing in this Executive Order precludes businesses or other establishments from requiring employees or customers to follow additional hygiene measures, including the wearing of a face covering; and
3. Nothing in this Executive Order modifies the Health and Safety Policy for Tarrant County Buildings and Facilities adopted on July 7, 2020, by the Commissioners Court.

**ORDERED** this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2021.

  
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B. Glen Whitley, County Judge