



**DALLAS COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE**

**ORDER OF COUNTY JUDGE CLAY JENKINS ON REQUIRED USE OF A  
FACE MASK IN CERTAIN PUBLIC SPACE**

DATE ORDER ISSUED: February 25, 2022

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins declared a state of local disaster on March 12, 2020, due to imminent threat arising from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), on March 19, 2020, the Dallas County Commissioners Court approved an Order Continuing Declaration of State of Local Disaster for Dallas County and on June 16, 2020, the Dallas County Commissioners Court again approved the Order Continuing Declaration of State of Local Disaster for Dallas County (hereafter, the "Order of Disaster Declaration");

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 by approval of the Order of Disaster Declaration, the Dallas County Commissioners Court authorized the Dallas County Judge to take such actions as are necessary in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Dallas County by the issuance of executive orders as necessary (each, an "Executive Order");

WHEREAS, the transmission of COVID-19 has not dissipated but remains a significant threat to the health and safety of the Dallas County community and rates of infection are increasing at an alarming exponential rate and the number of people ending up in the hospital, ICU, or on ventilators is also dramatically rising despite efforts by local authorities to control the spread;

WHEREAS, the County Judge has determined that extraordinary emergency measures must be taken to try and mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate a response to the public health threat;

WHEREAS, a County Judge is authorized to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Dallas County, including but not limited to, controlling ingress to and egress from a disaster area and controlling the movement of persons and occupancy of premises on an appropriate local scale in accordance with Section 418.108(g) of the Texas Government Code and his authority as Emergency Management Director;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated their masking guidance on February 25, 2022, to create new COVID-19 Community Levels, which uses metrics of COVID-19 hospital admissions and hospital capacity with case data to identify when a community is facing a low, medium, or high level of risk from COVID-19;

THEREFORE, County Judge Clay Jenkins hereby ISSUES the following Order as follows:

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE  
SECTION 418.108, DALLAS COUNTY JUDGE CLAY JENKINS ORDERS:**

1. Effective as of 10:00 p.m. on February 25, 2021, ("*Effective Date*"), and continuing until rescinded by Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins:
  - I. Face Coverings Required – Long-Term Care Facilities. Throughout the pandemic, long-term care facility and nursing home residents have been more likely to get seriously ill and die from COVID-19, which is why the CDC continues to recommend the wearing of masks in these settings. From the date of this Executive Order, all employees, residents, and visitors of Long-Term Care Facilities, including Skilled Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, and Nursing Homes are required to wear a face

mask consistent with CDC guidance, regardless of vaccination status. For guidance specific to LTCFs, see:

- i. LTCF Staff: Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2, [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Freturn-to-work.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Freturn-to-work.html)
- ii. Patients, residents, and visitors to LTCFs: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

**II. Face Coverings Required – Healthcare Facilities.** From the date of this Executive Order, all employees, patients, and visitors of healthcare facilities, including hospitals, clinics, physician offices and other healthcare settings, are required to wear a face mask consistent with CDC guidance specific to their setting. For guidance specific to healthcare settings, see:

- i. Healthcare staff: Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2, [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Freturn-to-work.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Freturn-to-work.html)
- ii. Patients, residents, and visitors to healthcare settings: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

**III. Face Coverings Required – Certain Congregate Settings.** From the date of this Executive Order, all employees, residents, and visitors of correctional facilities, detention facilities, and homeless shelters are required to wear a face mask consistent with CDC guidance specific to their setting. For guidance specific to congregate settings, see:

- i. Congregate facilities and other settings: Guidance Pages for Community, Work, and School Settings, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>

**IV. COVID-19 Mitigation Measures.** Please note that face coverings are a secondary strategy to other mitigation efforts. **Face coverings are *not* a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick.** All people should follow CDC recommendations for how to wear and take off a face mask. Residents should keep up the following habits while in public:

- washing hands before you leave home and when you return,
- staying at least six feet away from others,
- avoiding touching nose or face,
- not using disposable masks more than three times, and
- washing reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

**V. Severability.** The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases in this Order are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Order should be declared invalid by the final judgement or decree of any court or competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

**IT IS SO ORDERED**

*Clay Lewis Jenkins*  
CLAY JENKINS  
DALLAS COUNTY JUDGE

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