

**ORDER BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY****County Judge Order 2021-08; Relating to the COVID-19 and Mask to be Safe at School**

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, the virus that causes COVID-19 is contagious and spreads through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings; and

Whereas, COVID-19 continues to menace the health of County residents and with the presence of the Delta variant, a highly transmissible and more contagious variation of COVID-19, Dr. Desmar Walkes, the Austin-Travis County Health Authority has implored individuals to wear face coverings to prevent further transmission of COVID-19; and

Whereas, cases and hospitalizations continue to increase in Travis County as new variants spread throughout the community and public health officials recommend that individuals take additional precautions such as wearing a face covering even if vaccinated, as set forth in the COVID-19 Risk-Based Charts for vaccinated and unvaccinated/partially vaccinated individuals attached as **Exhibit A**; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 virus has mutated and developed more highly contagious strains, such as the Delta variant, that has led to increased pediatric hospital admissions throughout the Austin-Travis County area, as children younger than 12 years are not eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and requiring face coverings in schools is a necessary measure to prevent transmission of COVID-19 among the unvaccinated; and

Whereas, reliable medical information indicates that even individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccine are capable of contracting and spreading the current Delta variant of the virus; and

Whereas, schools are starting their school year in upcoming weeks; and

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 in order to protect the health and safety of the community; 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; and


Whereas, this Order is necessary to protect the public health and welfare of the community and those individuals who attend, visit or work in Travis County schools and help control further transmission of COVID-19.

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

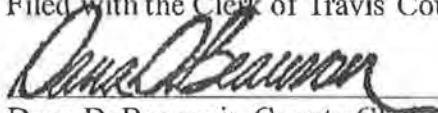
Effective as of **12:01 a.m. on August 12, 2021**, and continuing until modified or terminated by the Travis County Judge or as otherwise indicated below:

1. **Face Coverings Required.** Students, staff, and visitors over the age of two (2) are **REQUIRED** to wear a face covering while on school property or school buses during Stages 3, 4, and 5 as set forth in Austin Public Health's Risk-Based Chart attached as **Exhibit A**. A face covering is a form of covering that fits snugly over their nose and mouth, such as a commercially made or homemade fabric mask, scarf, bandana.
2. This Order shall cover all public schools, including public charter schools in Travis County.
3. A principal, the responsible staff or administrator of the students, may determine when it is not appropriate to require students, staff, and visitors to wear a face covering.
4. Compliance with this Order is reliant on self-regulation and a community commitment to public health and safety under the threat of COVID-19.
5. The Travis County Clerk and Austin Public Health Department will post this Order on their websites.
6. **Savings Clause.** If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.
7. This Order is issued in accordance with and incorporates by reference all declarations, findings, and recitations set out in the preamble to this Order and incorporates by reference the following:
 - a. **Exhibit A:** Stage 5 Risk Based Guidelines for Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Individuals.

ORDERED this the 11 day of August, 2021, in the County of Travis, Texas.


Andy Brown, County Judge
County of Travis, Texas

Filed with the Clerk of Travis County, this 14th day of August, 2021.



Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk

COVID-19 Risk-Based Chart — Vaccinated

* Please continue following additional requirements of local businesses, venues and schools regardless of vaccination status or stage. Schools, hospitals, and long term living centers follow CDC and APH guidelines—or—the regulatory agency’s policy.



	Private Gatherings* With People Outside Your Household				Travel*		Dining*		Shopping*	
	Indoor		Outdoor		Low-Risk	High-Risk	Low-Risk	High-Risk	Low-Risk	High-Risk
	Low-Risk	High-Risk	Low-Risk	High-Risk						
Stage 1										
Stage 2										
Stage 3										
Stage 4										
Stage 5						Only if essential	Indoors +	Outdoors		Outdoors/ Takeaway/ Curbside



Mask optional, continue washing hands and other hygiene precautions



Not recommended at all, with or without masks



Take prevention measures: wear a mask, wash your hands and social distance following CDC guidelines























Places that require vaccines and masks may pose a lower risk.



COVID-19 Risk-Based Chart — Partly Vaccinated or Unvaccinated

* Please continue following additional requirements of local businesses, venues and schools regardless of vaccination status or stage. Schools, hospitals, and long term living centers follow CDC and APH guidelines—or—the regulatory agency’s policy.

	Private Gatherings* With People Outside Your Household		Travel*	Dining*	Shopping*
	Indoor	Outdoor			
Stage 1					
Stage 2					
Stage 3	 If high risk: avoid unless essential	 If high risk: avoid unless essential	 If high risk: avoid unless essential	 If high risk: avoid unless essential	 If high risk: avoid unless essential
Stage 4			Only if essential	Takeaway/ Curbside	Only if essential
Stage 5				Takeaway/ Curbside	Takeaway/ Curbside



Mask optional, continue washing hands and other hygiene precautions



Not recommended at all, with or without masks



Take prevention measures: wear a mask, wash your hands and social distance following CDC guidelines



STAYS IN FILE



**FILED AND RECORDED
OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS**

Dana DeBeauvoir

**Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk
Travis County, Texas**

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