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PRESS RELEASE

From Lee County Judge Paul Fischer, Giddings Mayor John Dowell,
and Lexington Mayor Allen Retzlaff

July 2, 2020

With the rise in COVID-19 cases in Texas, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA-29 today mandating face mask coverings. Governor Abbott's Order supersedes the Order issued by Lee County and the mayors of Giddings and Lexington earlier this week. Governor Abbott's Order states that "effective at 12:01 p.m. on July 3, 2020, [e]very person in Texas shall 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, whenever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household;..." Governor Abbott then listed eleven exceptions to that requirement, including persons younger than 10 years of age, in a restaurant to eat or drink, or when engaging in exercise outdoors. Governor Abbott's Order also allowed a County to be exempt from the face mask requirement if the County has less than 20 active COVID-19 cases. Lee County has in excess of 50 active COVID-19 cases. A copy of [Executive Order GA-29](#) is linked to this release.

Governor Abbott's Order also says that a first offense for violating the face mask covering Order is to be a written or verbal warning. A person's second violation is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250 for each violation.

Governor Abbott today also issued a [Proclamation](#) amending [Executive Order GA-28](#) regulating outdoor gatherings. The amended Proclamation for outdoor gatherings prohibits most outdoor gatherings of more than 10 people. The Proclamation exempts, among other things, rodeos, swimming pools, and recreational sports programs for kids. Events not prohibited are still limited to a 50% capacity, must have face coverings, and must submit a plan to require social distancing to be approved by the Mayor or County Judge.

The mayors and I have spoken as to how this affects events this holiday weekend. The Chamber of Commerce has postponed the Grimes Street Festival scheduled for Friday July 3rd. The Giddings VFD will still be selling BBQ by the pound and to go plates on the 4th. Entry to the fairground for the 4th of July BBQ will be from the rodeo entrance off of HWY 290. The VFD auction will be held later in the year. The Giddings VFD music events and dance scheduled at the pavilion for the 4th have been postponed. The Giddings and Lexington fireworks events will go on as scheduled. Individuals must remain in or around their vehicles and must maintain six feet social distancing.

[Governor Abbott's Press Release](#)