



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Lockhart City Council rescinds masking requirements

LOCKHART, Tx—Tuesday, March 18, Lockhart City Council voted to rescind Mayor Lew White’s previous local disaster declaration requiring masks in public—in compliance to Governor Abbott’s latest [Executive Order, GA-36](#). The governor’s order states that local government entities, including cities, counties, school districts, and public health authorities, may not impose masking requirements.

“It’s been a long haul,” Mayor White said. “But I’m proud of the community for all it has done to help.”

Masking and physical distancing requirements in Lockhart city facilities have also been lifted, including City Hall, the Dr. Eugene Clark Library, Municipal Court, Lockhart Police, and Fire Departments. That means, City employees and visitors are no longer required to wear face coverings in these buildings. However, city employees are still permitted to wear a face covering if they prefer.

“Masks may no longer be required, but we still urge you to observe the CDC’s guidance,” the mayor added. “If you’re not fully vaccinated, keep masking up.”

Per the CDC, someone is considered fully vaccinated if it has been two weeks since they received their last Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson & Johnson dose. The agency’s new guidelines recognize that fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to mask up outdoors and in most indoor settings, unless required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, including local business and workplace guidance.

Even after the vote, Lockhart City Council stressed the importance of supporting businesses that choose to keep masking in place. Businesses are exempt from Governor Abbott’s order, along with state

supported living centers, government-owned and operated hospitals, state, and local correctional facilities.

To date, hospitalization rates have been on a steady decline in Trauma Service Area O, which includes Lockhart and Austin, at 2.41 percent.

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