



**Wood County Judge Lucy Hebron
Quitman, Texas
July 7, 2020 Press Release
(12:00 p.m.)**

COVID-19 Update

On July 2, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order No. GA-29 (“Executive Order”) and Proclamation Amending GA-28 (“Proclamation”). The Executive Order relates to the use of face coverings during the COVID-19 disaster, and the Proclamation relates to mass gatherings in Texas.

According to the Office of Court Administration, the Executive Order requires individuals to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial building or other building or space open to the public. The requirement does not apply in certain conditions, including:

1. For any person younger than 10 years of age;
2. For any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
3. For any person while the person is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience;
4. For any person in a county with fewer than 20 active cases of COVID-19 and the county judge of the county has submitted an exemption affirmatively opting out of the requirement; or
5. For other reasons listed in the Executive Order, which can be viewed by clicking on the link below.

<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/EO-GA-29-use-of-face-coverings-during-COVID-19-IMAGE-07-02-2020.pdf>

Because Wood County has more than 20 active cases, we did not qualify to apply for an exemption.

The Executive Order lists the penalty for a first violation as a verbal or written warning, with subsequent violations punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250 per violation. Detention, arrest, or confinement in jail is prohibited for violations.

Regardless of whether law enforcement elects to enforce the Executive Order, it remains an issue of personal responsibility. While none of us wants to wear a mask and also endure the other inconveniences imposed by the various Executive Orders and Proclamations that have been issued, it is my hope that each of us will consider our relatives, friends, neighbors, businesses, as well as our community as a whole, and make bearable sacrifices for the health and safety of all.

According to the Office of Court Administration, the Proclamation modifies the previous executive order in two ways:

1. Reduces outdoor gathering size limits, with certain exceptions, from 100 to 10 without mayor or county judge approval;
2. Modifies wording on group size limits for groups larger than 10 from “should not” to “**shall** not be in groups larger than 10 and **shall** maintain six feet of social distancing from those not in their group.”

The Proclamation can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/DISASTER-proclamation-amending-GA-28-mass-gatherings-IMAGE-07-02-2020.pdf>

The Executive Order and Proclamation will remain in effect until modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the Governor.