

PUBLIC NOTICE

From Brett Bray, Blanco County Judge

June 26, 2020

As we continue to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, Texas is currently experiencing a dramatic increase in confirmed positive cases. Many County Judges and Mayors are issuing “Mask Orders” which require the use of facial coverings while in public. Such an order is under consideration here in Blanco County. However, at this moment, I am making the following requests of our business community and our citizens.

It is my position that each business in this County has the right to impose reasonable restrictions in order for someone to work or patronize the establishment. In the interest of public safety, I ask that each and every business in Blanco County require your employees and your customers to wear a facial covering while on your premises. Furthermore, I ask that each segment of local government take ownership and control of the facilities entrusted to you and require employees and customers to wear a facial covering while on the premises. Of course, there are logical limitations when a customer is eating or drinking and there will be exceptional situations that require the use of your judgement. But we need your diligent and unwavering support at this time to control the spread of the virus in order to keep Blanco County healthy. I ask that you do this for all of us beginning now and continuing through the month of July.

I ask that each citizen in Blanco County readily comply and wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in a public place within Blanco County where it is difficult to keep six feet away from other people or when working in areas that involve close proximity with other coworkers. Blanco County residents and visitors should continue to maintain physical distancing of at least six feet while outside their home, as social distancing remains one of the most effective strategies to slow the spread of the virus.

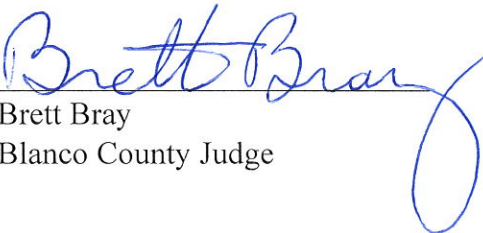
Examples of where a face covering is not practicable include:

- When engaging in physical activity or exercise alone outside
- While driving alone
- When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk
- While pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment

- While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening; and
- While actively consuming food or drink

While some believe that Texas has overreacted to the virus and that trying to avoid it is the wrong strategy, I am asking for your indulgence and your cooperation to employ the “ounce of prevention” even if your heart is not in it.

Finally, I recognize that everyone is a free-thinking individual in our community and varied opinions can be healthy. Nonetheless, I will not idly stand by while someone berates, condemns and/or disparages another individual for wearing a mask. It is a valid expression of one’s opinion to question strategies, policies and procedures, but I consider it abusive and a form of disorderly conduct when applied to a single citizen in a grocery line or elsewhere. Causing someone to forego wearing a face covering for fear of being ridiculed is unacceptable. Furthermore, no proprietor or employee is to be subjected to criticism or abuse for employing a mask-wearing strategy. All comments and criticism can be directed or referred to the undersigned.



Brett Bray
Blanco County Judge