



THE CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

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NEWS RELEASE

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Lake Jackson, Texas

GOVERNOR ABBOTT'S NEWEST ORDER UPDATE

Governor Abbott has issued Executive Order GA-28 today. We are posting the full order on our website and on the City Facebook page.

The Governor is pulling back on the re-opening of the Texas economy in response to the large surge in new cases and hospitalizations in Texas. Bars must close again. Restaurants must return to 50% occupancy. Outside gatherings over 100 are prohibited, unless authorized by the County Judge or Mayor. All businesses, except those listed as essential by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Workforce, Version 3.1, is limited to 50% as well. There is an exception for barber shops, hair salons, nail salons and the like. They can operate as long as there is 6 feet between work stations.

The Governor also has stated in this latest order that: "Individuals are encouraged to wear appropriate face coverings, but no jurisdiction can impose a civil or criminal penalty for failure to wear a face mask."

We are working to get clarification, because just this week the Governor had said local jurisdictions could impose a requirement on businesses to require their employees and customers to wear face coverings that the business must enforce. If a violation of that order occurred the business could be fined. Local jurisdictions cannot fine individuals.

With this latest order, we need, again, to get clarification of what a jurisdiction can and cannot do related to face coverings.

Regardless, it is just common sense and common courtesy to wear a face covering when you are out in public and interacting with others.

Cases have gone up dramatically this week in our county and in our city. As of 5pm last evening, Brazoria County had 1463 reported cases, with 585 active, 814 recovered, 49 probable and 15 deceased. In Lake Jackson, our case total is now up to 53 with 28 active cases and 25 recovered.

Again, the Governor's order from today is posted for all to read. We will continue to work to get clarification on this most recent order.

In the meantime, please be safe.

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