

CITY OF MINEOLA PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Mercy Rushing, City Manager mrushing@mineola.com (903) 569-6183 Cell (903) 245-8505 March 4, 2021

COVID-19 Update

MINEOLA, TX – **March 4, 2021** – On March 2, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order No. GA-34, which related to opening up all of Texas 100 percent and removing the mask mandates effective Wednesday, March 10, 2021

On March 2, 2021 at 4:45 p.m., County Judge Lucy Hebron issued a press release stating that Wood County would uphold Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA- 34 issued earlier in the day. County Judge Hebron noted that Wood County currently meets the definition of low hospitalization area; therefore Wood County may reopen to the higher levels allowable under GA-34 as outlined by Governor Greg Abbott's latest Executive Order.

The newest order GA-34 "supersedes" previous orders such as G-32, requiring mayoral approval of certain outdoor gatherings. This newest order makes no mention of such a requirement. Texas Municipal League Staff further confirmed that the governor intended GA-34 to do away with the requirement that a mayor approve outdoor gatherings, as provided in previous orders. Executive Order GA-34 supersedes certain city regulatory authority (e.g., the authority to require city residents or businesses to adhere to pandemic mitigation measures, such as business closures, occupancy limits, or mask mandates). However, as with previous orders, GA-34 provides that "Nothing in this executive order precludes businesses or other establishments from requiring employees or customers to follow additional hygiene measures, including the wearing of a face covering".

Therefore City of Mineola concurs with Wood County's press release on March 2, 2021 relating to Covid-19 latest Order, GA-34 issued by Governor Abbott effective March 10, 2021. See attached Wood County Press Release

MORE INFORMATION

To follow developments at the city, stay informed by going to our website at <u>mineola.com</u> or on our Facebook page at Mineola, Texas. For health developments, follow NetHealth at <u>www.healthyeasttx.org</u> (903) 763-4151, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).