

City of Rockport



**Honorable Mayor
Patrick R. Rios**

Rockport Service Center
2751 S.H. 35 Bypass
Rockport, TX 78382
361-729-2213

Aransas County



**Honorable Judge
C.H. Burt Mills, Jr.**

Aransas County Court House
2840 Highway 35 N.
Rockport, TX 78382
361-790-0101

Town of Fulton



**Honorable Mayor
Kelli Cole**

City Hall
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Fulton, TX 78358
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March 2, 2021

A MESSAGE TO ARANSAS COUNTY RESIDENTS

Governor Greg Abbott today issued an Executive Order (GA-34) lifting the mask mandate in Texas and increasing capacity of all businesses and facilities in the state to 100 percent. The mandate will be lifted on Wednesday, March 10. Businesses may still limit capacity or implement additional safety protocols at their own discretion.

"With the medical advancements of vaccines and antibody therapeutic drugs, Texas now has the tools to protect Texans from the virus," said Governor Abbott. "We must now do more to restore livelihoods and normalcy for Texans by opening Texas 100 percent. Make no mistake, COVID-19 has not disappeared, but it is clear from the recoveries, vaccinations, reduced hospitalizations, and safe practices that Texans are using that state mandates are no longer needed.

"Today's announcement does not abandon safe practices that Texans have mastered over the past year. Instead, it is a reminder that each person has a role to play in their own personal safety and the safety of others. With this executive order, we are ensuring that all businesses and families in Texas have the freedom to determine their own destiny, he added."

If COVID-19 hospitalizations in any of the 22 hospital regions in Texas get above 15% of the hospital bed capacity in that region for seven straight days, a County Judge in that region may use COVID-19 mitigation strategies. However, County Judges may not impose jail time for not following COVID-19 orders nor may any penalties be imposed for failing to wear a face mask. If restrictions are imposed at a County level, those restrictions may not include reducing capacity to less than 50% for any type of entity.

If an Aransas County resident feels they may have COVID-19 symptoms after March 10, we urge them to continue to wear a face mask and get tested. A list of test sites is available at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>. We also encourage residents to maintain social distancing and utilize disinfectant when out and about as businesses will no longer be mandated to do so,

A copy of the Governor's latest Executive Order may be found at <https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/EO-GA-34-opening-Texas-response-to-COVID-disaster-IMAGE-03-02-2021.pdf>.