LSC Employees:

As you may know, yesterday Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order prohibiting governmental entities from mandating masks. While community colleges are not specifically mentioned, three separate lawyers have indicated that community colleges fall under the category of “governmental entities.”

This means that in order to comply with the Executive Order, effective Saturday, May 22, 1) we will no longer require masks; and 2) we will end most of our health and safety protocols including check-in stations, temperature checks and contact tracing. The reality is that with the end of the mask mandates, the other health and safety protocols are not enforceable.

We understand that certain employees solely helped us with ensuring these protocols were followed, working check-in stations, etc. We will work with all such employees to transition them to other tasks for the immediate future as we explore more longer-term solutions.

This does not change our previously stated work schedule. Effective June 7, employees should work in the office at least three days a week or 75% of your schedule. Administrators should be in the office four days a week.

We will return to five days a week starting August 23. Faculty, in most cases, will have the option of online, hybrid or face to face. Workforce programs will primarily be face to face. Each of the campuses are adding more face to face classes for academic transfer as the vaccines become widespread.

I am very aware that many of you have concerns about this Executive Order. You are certainly welcome to wear masks in the building. You are strongly encouraged to have your vaccinations if you have not already done so.

We will update you as information becomes available.

Regards,

Steve Head
Chancellor

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From: Governor Greg Abbott Press Office
<GovernorAbbottPress@public.govdelivery.com>
Date: May 18, 2021 at 12:47:01 PM CDT
Subject: Governor Abbott Issues Executive Order Prohibiting Government Entities From Mandating Masks
Reply-To: GovernorAbbottPress@public.govdelivery.com
Governor Abbott Issues Executive Order Prohibiting Government Entities From Mandating Masks

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today issued an Executive Order prohibiting governmental entities in Texas — including counties, cities, school districts, public health authorities, or government officials — from requiring or mandating mask wearing. Public schools may continue to follow current mask-wearing guidelines through June 4. After June 4, no student, teacher, parent, or other staff member or visitor can be required to wear a mask while on campus.

Beginning May 21, local governments or officials that attempt to impose a mask mandate or impose a limitation inconsistent or conflicting with the Executive Order can be subject to a fine of up to $1,000.

"The Lone Star State continues to defeat COVID-19 through the use of widely-available vaccines, antibody therapeutic drugs, and safe practices utilized by Texans in our communities," said Governor Abbott. "Texans, not government, should decide their best health practices, which is why masks will not be mandated by public school districts or government entities. We can continue to mitigate COVID-19 while defending Texans' liberty to choose whether or not they mask up."

Exempt from the Executive Order are state-supported living centers, government-owned or operated hospitals, Texas Department of Criminal Justice facilities, Texas Juvenile Justice Department facilities, and county and municipal jails.

View the Governor's Executive Order.

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Please DO NOT REPLY to this message. It comes from an un-monitored mailbox. If you have any questions regarding this announcement, please contact the Governor's Press Office at (512) 463-1826.