

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

Last week we launched the “Atascosa Cowboy Connect” Transit program. Already I see the 'nattering negativity' Facebook postings asking how can we do this when the economy is so tough. We have a single bright shining moment when all three cities and the county see an opportunity to help in the tough times and benefit when times are better by starting a county – wide transportation system. This moment in time is funded by more than 50% (not even including the two (2) new \$150,000 shuttles provided. What AACOG (ART) is charging (the cost of which is divided between the three (3) cities and the county) for 3 – 4 drivers, fuel, maintenance, insurance, management and all other operating costs does not even rise to half of these costs. ART also provides 3 full – time shuttles and drivers to service the rest of the county and has for several years. ART is totally grant funded allowing these services to Atascosa County. How can we NOT do it? All cities and the county wisely and unanimously approved this fabulous deal.

We have a lot of people requesting that I lift the mask mandate and think it is strictly up to me. There are a number of rules to follow and I have detailed these on the County Facebook Page and the County Emergency Management Facebook page. Please go read the complete version. The one thing I want to emphasize is that if we do lift the mask mandate, I will be issuing a plea to all individuals and businesses to continue to do voluntary masking. It is my firmly held belief that masking is one thing that is bringing our numbers down. So, I will make a plea for all businesses to continue to require masks of their employees and customers and all individuals to continue to protect themselves and others by wearing masks in the appropriate circumstances. I truly believe we are on the verge of turning the corner on this mess and ask all Atascosa citizens to hang in there.

Thanks for listening. Let's keep Atascosa moving forward!

Atascosa County Judge Mask Statement 10/5/2020

The rules by the Governor concerning face masking issued in his Executive Order GA 29 and demonstrated by Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) are as follows – County Judge may request lifting the mask rule if the county experiences 14 days with continuous count of 20 “actives” or under. The County Judge must submit this request to TDEM. Then, if approved, the county must stay at or below 20 cases to remain exempt. If the case count rises above 20 for 14 days the mask rule is reinstated and the county must wait 30 days to re - qualify for the exemption. This exemption DOES NOT remove the rules for social distancing and ALL other rules in the current Governors' Orders for individuals and businesses.

For the very first time we are heading for 14 consecutive days which will be up on Thursday, October 8. If this holds I will submit the request to Commissioners Court on the 9 and send the request. I hope the reader can also see that this is not to be done without caution because it can set the county back over 30 days if we have to reset.

I also add that if all of the above holds and we do lift the mask mandate, I will be issuing a plea to all individuals and businesses to continue to do voluntary masking. It is my firmly held belief that masking is one thing that is bringing our numbers down. So, I will make a plea for all businesses to continue to require masks of their employees and customers and all individuals to continue to protect themselves and others by wearing masks in the appropriate circumstances. I truly believe we are on the verge of turning the corner on this mess and ask all Atascosa citizens to hang in there.