

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

We reported last week on the County Emergency Facebook Page that the State had changed the way they calculate a county's ability to opt out of the masking rule. Before this the rule was that the confirmed cases had to be below 20 daily for two weeks consecutive. Our numbers dropped so well that we were running 5 and below every day. So, the commissioners wanted to opt in. So, I filed the paperwork to lift the mask rule for Atascosa County. Currently that lift is still in effect. However, the State has shifted its policy to a different rule. That rule says that on an aggregate count of new cases for 14 days we must be under 30. So, if you add the last 14 days as of this writing, we are at 23. It will be much harder to stay under the count with the new rule. This is set by the State which is under the Governor. Many people have written on the Facebook page how unhappy they are about this change. I understand that they are, but I have no control over that. Please understand that if we must "un" lift the mask rule, it is not our decision. These orders carry the weight of law and I swore an oath of office. Individuals may engage in "civil disobedience." But in my code of integrity, I may not.

I do want to say that I am so proud of those businesses that have continued to require their employees to wear masks. That is where I want to do business. They are protecting their customers and their employees.

I want everyone to know, no matter what side you are on the mask issue, that I am just as weary of this whole mess like you are. I am hopeful that we will have a vaccine by the end of the year, and we can begin to see an end to it. I think the vaccine will have to happen before we come out of this quagmire. In the meantime, it is my hope that the economy can stay open at least at the level it is now and that can be done safely if everyone shows voluntary individual initiative and wears masks.

We will be posting this new "running total" of confirmed cases daily on our FB Page so everyone can be aware of it. I hope you stay safe and healthy.

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

We want you to be proud of your County Government.