



Office of the Mayor
Ron Nirenberg



NELSON W. WOLFF
COUNTY JUDGE

February 26, 2021

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott,

Thank you for your continuous efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It has certainly been a challenging time for all of us. As we make progress in keeping our citizens safe with the continued rollout of vaccines and towards reopening our economy, we understand that you may be considering lifting the facemask mandate. We urge you to keep the facemask mandate in place.

Supported by our public health professionals, we firmly believe it would be premature to do so. Scientific studies have shown repeatedly that the widely practiced wearing of facemasks slows the spread of the virus. Public health organizations around the world, including our own Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a world-renowned specialist in this field, have documented how the combination of wearing facemasks, keeping a physical distance of at least 6 ft., and frequent handwashing are most effective at reducing the spread of the virus.

Especially with the arrival of new variants of the virus, our existing safety measures are even more important. We have to do everything in our power to prevent new surges in infections, subsequent hospitalization, and more deaths to avoid further individual and collective suffering and economic pain. The mask mandate was a wise and effective choice. It is a minor discomfort compared to the alternative.

We have come a long way in this struggle and need to make sure we see it through to the successful conclusion. The safety and well-being of our citizens is at the heart of all our decisions. Let science be our guide and let us work together to keep Texas healthy and prosperous.

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature of Ron Nirenberg, consisting of a stylized, cursive "RN" followed by a horizontal flourish.

Ron Nirenberg
Mayor, City of San Antonio

A blue ink signature of Nelson W. Wolff, written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail.

Nelson W. Wolff
County Judge, Bexar County