

For Immediate Release

March 5, 2021

Contact: Eddie Treviño, Jr.

Cameron County Judge

RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR ABBOTT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER GA-34

"On March 2, 2021 Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-34 lifting capacity restrictions and allowing business and other establishment up to 100% capacity effective on March 10th. He also is lifting the state-wide mask mandate and is preventing local measures inconsistent with his Order except in jurisdictions with seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity exceeds 15 percent. The overwhelming consensus of local, state and national health professionals is that the lifting of the state-wide mandate and limitation on local orders is premature and contrary to sound scientific principles. I believe that the mask mandate should only be lifted when a COVID-19 vaccine is available to everyone. While I respect Governor Abbott's decision, I regret he did not give us another 60 to 90 days to continue vaccinating our constituents and get past Spring Break, the Easter Holiday, and nearing the end of the school districts spring semester before taking these actions. Our numbers in Cameron County continue to be steady, and we might have seen a decline in cases last week because of the Winter Weather Storm, but we felt that with the social distancing and facemask covering requirements, our vaccination efforts were leading us in the right direction as far as slowing the risk of the spread of the virus," stated Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr.

"I strongly urge and recommend that all Cameron County residents, businesses and other establishments continue to abide by the social distancing guidelines, continue using face coverings or masks, hand wash regularly and practice good hygiene etiquette. I'd hate to see another virus surge that comes along with hospitalizations and deaths due to a premature lifting of the protections that work, such as mask coverings. Remember, we live in a time where the demand for the cure of this virus continues to be extremely high, and where here in Texas, we are working past the winter weather storm aftermath at the same time. We need to work together to continue with the safeguards to protect us all," stated Judge Treviño.

###