

ResponsiveEd Texas Families and Staff,

On Tuesday, March 2, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued an [executive order](#) rescinding the state's public mask requirement effective March 10. Even so, Governor Abbott reiterated that "individuals are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings . . . whenever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing . . ." And while the order provided guidance for various businesses, it required public schools to operate under the health and safety guidelines issued by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

On Wednesday, March 3, the TEA issued a [press release](#), stating that "a public school system's current practices on masks may continue unchanged." And while TEA did update its [Public Health Guidance](#), its guidance regarding face coverings has remained unchanged. Likewise, **[ResponsiveEd's Health and Safety Guidelines](#) will remain unchanged for the time being.**

As noted by the TEA, "[l]ocal school boards have full authority to determine their local mask policy." Since the beginning of the school year, ResponsiveEd has used community-specific COVID-19 data to differentiate campus [mask requirements](#) each week. Under [ResponsiveEd Health and Safety Guidelines](#), when [COVID-19 activity levels](#) in a particular community are low enough, masks are not required in the classrooms of our nearby campus. A handful of ResponsiveEd campuses have already met this weekly minimum standard. ResponsiveEd remains committed to the safety of our students, staff, and visitors, therefore we plan to continue our locally-based, data-driven approach to mask requirements. We will promptly notify families and staff if this approach results in any future revision to our COVID-19 practices.

Thank you for your partnership in the health and safety of others.

Chuck Cook
Chief Executive Officer
ResponsiveEd