Governor Abbott Executive Order GA-29 "Use of Face Covering" FAQ

What Does the Executive Order State?
That beginning July 3, 2020 (12:01PM) every person in Texas shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a public building/space or when in an outdoor public space where maintaining six feet of social distancing from another person (not from the same household) is not feasible. This means that you need to wear a mask both indoors and outdoors if you're not six feet from another person.

When is it Okay to Not Wear a Mask?
- If you are younger than 10 years of age
- If you have a medical condition or disability that prevents you from wearing a face covering
- If you're consuming food or drink; you're exercising outdoors; you're in a swimming pool (lake or similar body of water); you're voting (but it’s strongly encouraged); you're obtaining a service that requires temporary access to your face such as visiting a bank or a security screening; you're giving a speech to an audience; you're actively providing or obtaining access to religious worship (but it’s strongly recommended).

What’s the Penalty or Fine for Not Wearing a Mask?
There will be a verbal or written warning for a first time violation of the face-covering requirement. A second violation is a fine that will not exceed $250. Any violation after that will be $250 for each violation. There is no arrest or jail-time penalty for violation of the face-covering requirement.

Are Gatherings of 10 or More People Allowed?
The Governor also signed a Proclamation on July 2, 2020 prohibiting people from gathering in groups of more than 10 people. The groups of 10 people must maintain social distancing practices as well.

How Long is this In Effect?
There is no end date on either the Face Covering Requirement (GA-29) or the limited gathering size. It will be determined by the Governor when these restrictions and requirements will be lifted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.