

RESOLUTION NO. R-2021-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD SUPPORTING VACCINATIONS, THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS AND OTHER PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO COMBAT THE UNCONTROLLED SPREAD OF COVID-19; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Northeast Texas Public Health District to promote the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Texas Public Health District is a governmental entity created pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code Section 121.041 et seq., and performs essential public health services; and

WHEREAS, under Texas Health & Safety Code Section 121.002(1)(C), the term “essential public health services” includes services to inform, educate and empower community efforts to improve health; and

WHEREAS, under Texas Health & Safety Code Section 121.002(1)(D), the term “essential public health services” includes services to mobilize community partnerships in identifying and solving community health problems; and

WHEREAS, under Texas Health & Safety Code Section 121.002(1)(E), the term “essential public health services” includes services to develop policies and plans that support individual and community efforts to improve health; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 cases have increased at a substantial rate since July 1, 2021 due in large part to the spread of the highly transmissible Delta variant; and

WHEREAS, area hospitals are currently stressed to their capacity to treat the sick in our community, COVID-related and otherwise; and

WHEREAS, although there has been a recent uptick in COVID-19 vaccination locally and vaccination rates are higher in those aged 65 years or older, full vaccinations across Northeast Texas for those aged 12 years and higher are generally 40% or less, with some counties only around 33%; and

WHEREAS, vaccinations have been shown to be highly effective in preventing COVID-19 hospitalizations and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, to augment vaccinations, other preventive measures that should be taken are the use of face coverings in public settings, staying home when sick, good hygiene practices and social distancing; and

WHEREAS, a combination of mitigation efforts is needed in order to relieve the burden of disease in our local community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD:

PART 1: To help counteract the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19, the Board recommends all eligible persons obtain the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible.

PART 2: To help counteract the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19, the Board strongly recommends Schools utilize face coverings for all individuals on campus and at School-related activities, as long as this area remains in the moderate to substantial benchmark per the COVID-19 Community Spread Level document for the NET Health Jurisdiction.

PART 3: To help counteract the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19, and in accordance with current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, the Board recommends local businesses strongly encourage masking for customers 2 years of age and older and for employees, except while eating or drinking, as long as this area remains in the moderate to substantial benchmark per the COVID-19 Community Spread Level document for the NET Health Jurisdiction.

PART 4: Per Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, the Board recommends and strongly encourages that all members of the public stay home when they are sick, practice social distancing as much as possible, and quarantine and get tested after having known close contact exposure to a person infected with COVID-19.

PART 5: That this Resolution shall become effective immediately from and after its passage and approval by the Northeast Texas Public Health District Board.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 2nd day of September, A.D., 2021.

DR. LI-YU MITCHELL
BOARD CHAIR
NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH
DISTRICT

ALLISON POLLAN
BOARD SECRETARY

GEORGE T. ROBERTS, JR.
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH
DISTRICT

APPROVED:

STEVEN M. KEAN, BOARD ATTORNEY