



Statement from Edgewood ISD Board President Martha Castilla

August 24, 2021

Esteemed members of the Edgewood Community:

Our decision to pass this resolution, which will require mask use on District property, was not made lightly. As you all are well aware, COVID-19 has been on an upward trend in the state for the past few months. Bexar County has designated the area at a “Severe” risk level, and we feel that requiring mask use, in addition to other social distancing measures is in the best interests of students, staff, and the Edgewood Community. In making this decision, we considered guidance from the CDC, which has recommended that mask be required in school settings.

Additionally, the Texas Medical Association, Texas Pediatric Society, and Texas Public Health Coalition have also called for universal masking in schools.

We understand there is pending litigation throughout the state of Texas between the Governor’s office and various public entities that have passed mask mandates. This litigation centers around Governor Abbott’s Executive Order 38, which states that a school district cannot mandate the use of masks, but for some reason, mandates the use of masks in jails and hospitals. We feel that the Governor’s Executive Order is not the in best interests of our students, staff, and community. While we do realize that this resolution may result in litigation, we feel that the potential costs of litigation is worth more than any potential illness or loss of life to any member of the Edgewood community. We ask that everyone please mask up, social distance, and stay safe!

Thank you.