

As you're probably aware, Gov. Abbott recently released a new Executive Order (<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/EO-GA-34-opening-Texas-response-to-COVID-disaster-IMAGE-03-02-2021.pdf>) regarding "lifting the mask mandate", effective March 10, 2021.

*As we consider Governor Abbott's Executive Order that was released March 2, 2021, please note that our diocese is not making any change, as of yet, to our mitigation policies and COVID protocols in our school communities.*

*From the beginning of the pandemic, Governor Abbott has reinforced private schools' abilities to determine the methods necessary to ensure the safety and protection of our students. We are thankful that we are able to maintain our current mitigation efforts that have proven to be remarkably effective at protecting our work force and our students, and we will continue to employ those methods until it is determined safe by our medical professionals and approved by our diocese to discontinue them.*

*We are grateful that our families continue to make choices to protect the most vulnerable, and encourage all people who are able to take advantage of the COVID-19 vaccines to do so as soon as they can, so that we can return to a sense of normalcy in the fall.*

*Thank you for your continued prayerful support of our school communities.*

*In His service,*

*Dr. John E. Quarry  
Superintendent of Schools  
Diocese of Victoria in Texas*