

The Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) has updated the criteria for counties to maintain exemption from the Texas Executive Order GA-29 face-covering requirement. These new requirements are more stringent. We wanted to make sure the public was aware of this because Atascosa County is close to losing the exemption.

Now, if a county exceeds 30 new COVID-19 cases during a 14-day period, the County Judge will be notified that the county has lost exemption status and has been removed from the exemption list on the TDEM website.

To calculate the number TDEM uses a report they receive each day from the Department of Health and Human Services (below is a link to the report). They tally the numbers of NEW cases for the past 14 days to reach the total.

As of today, Atascosa County sits at a total of 28 NEW cases for the past 14 days.

If we reach 30 and are removed, we will once again have to comply with all aspects of the GA-29 face covering requirements. To reapply for exemption, we must meet all set exemption requirements for 14 days.

We are planning to add this running number to our website and the i-info announcements.

To look at the totals used by TDEM visit:

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/additionaldata/>

Click "New Cases over Time by County" to be taken to an Excel spreadsheet that lists the new cases for each day since March 4.