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**Governor Kelly Announces Updated COVID-19 Guidance for State Agencies**

**TOPEKA** – Governor Laura Kelly today announced masking and facial coverings are no longer required for state employees or visitors effective Friday, February 18 at 5:00 pm CT. They will still be recommended. This decision comes as COVID-19 cases in Kansas continue to decline and the state resumes regular operations.

“I appreciate the help of every Kansan who worked to mitigate the COVID-19 virus through masking and vaccinations,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “As COVID-19 becomes part of our normal lives, we need to continue transitioning back to business as usual in Executive Branch offices across the state.”

Due to the widespread availability of COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters, and the substantial decline in COVID-19 cases, masks will be recommended, not required. State employees are still encouraged to wear face masks when they cannot socially distance.

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