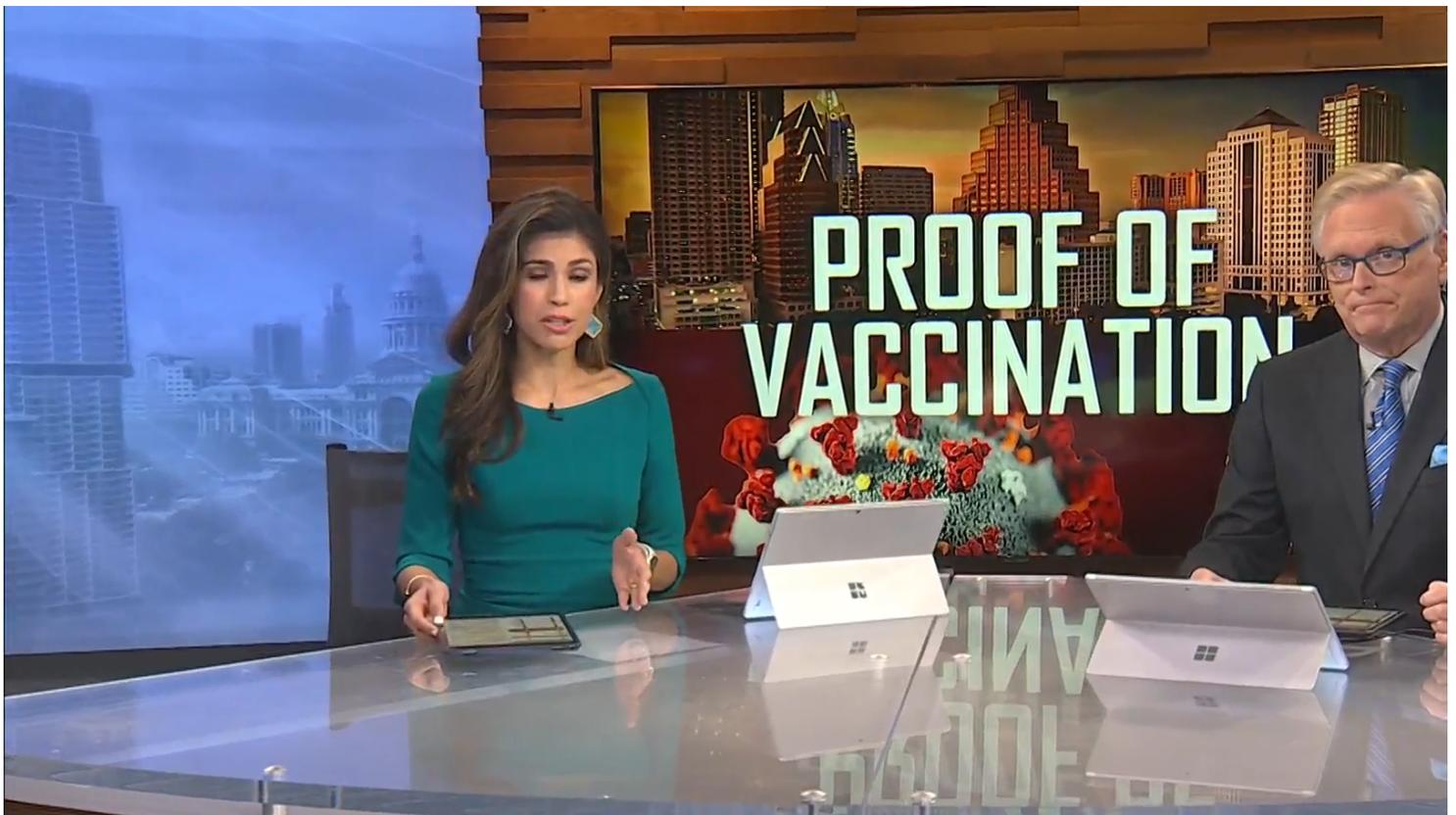


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AUSTIN

City of Austin says it WON'T require proof of vaccination for employees, despite Mayor Adler's request



by: [Russell Falcon](#), [Jacquelyn Powell](#)

Posted: Jul 28, 2021 / 03:26 PM CDT / Updated: Jul 28, 2021 / 06:39 PM CDT



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On Wednesday afternoon, Austin Mayor Steve Adler officially urged City Manager Spencer Cronk to enact the requirement, as cases in the Austin-Travis County area have surged in the past few weeks.

Adler said Wednesday:

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“With alarming increases in cases, ICU admissions, and community positivity rates, we must do more. We must especially act to better protect our children under 12 who cannot get vaccinated and are being put at needless increased risk. I am today asking the City Manager to require city employees to be vaccinated (subject only to appropriate exceptions). Further, I urge Austin businesses also to require their employees to become

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Adler in particular has butted up against the order, saying that he'd enforce masking in the city — even for *vaccinated* people — if he could.

But a spokesperson for the City of Austin told KXAN later Wednesday afternoon that required vaccinations won't be happening.

“The Governor’s Executive Order GA-35 prohibits the City from requiring vaccinations,” said the spokesperson. “However, the City Manager has urged staff to get vaccinated as an essential part of helping us end this pandemic. Being fully vaccinated is proven to provide the highest level of protection against COVID-19 and COVID variants.”

Austin mayor says all should wear masks again as COVID-19 cases spike →

Texas Medical Association COVID-19 Task Force member Dr. Dr. Ogechika Alozie told KXAN he feels more needs to be done to get more people vaccinated.

“I think we sort of have failed in getting enough people in this country vaccinated because it’s been politicized, and so the next two things are mandates and potentially incentives,” Alozie said.

Dr. Alozie says he feels employers should have some control when it comes to employees being vaccinated.

“I truly believe that employers now have to take a role in this conversation. They can’t sit on the backburner anymore. They have to make a decision,” Alozie said. “I think it is fair for people to have mandates to get vaccinated, and actually I actually believe that if we’re going to engage in mandate conversation, it should be on thin^{gs}”



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hesitancy within the department.

APD said that while it made the vaccine available to employees, it does not “in any way influence the decision of our officers...”

On Tuesday, Adler condemned Abbott for the mask ban, especially as it bars [Texas school districts from enforcing mask wearing](#) as in-person classes begin for fall.

“As the CDC prepares to recommend all K-12 students wear masks, a reminder that [@GovAbbott](#) has made it impossible for Texas schools to protect students and for cities to protect its citizens,” [Adler tweeted](#).

Later that day, Abbott reiterated previous statements that he wouldn't reinstate the mandate, no matter the surging case numbers and hospitalizations.

“The time for government mask mandates is over — now is the time for personal responsibility,” [Abbott tweeted](#). “...Every Texan has the right to choose whether they will wear a mask or have their children wear masks.”

As of the last update on July 27, there are currently 1,816 active cases of [COVID-19 in Austin-Travis County](#). A reported 292 people are hospitalized, 103 are in the ICU, and 59 people are on ventilators.

Last week, Austin-Travis County entered [Stage 4 guidelines for COVID-19 risk](#).

City of Austin says it WON'T require proof of vaccination for employees, despite Mayor Adler's request



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43 vaccinated Texans with underlying conditions have died from COVID-19 since February 8 →

Can an employer require vaccination?

The answer is **yes**.

The U.S. [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#) explains:

*“The federal EEO laws **do not** prevent an employer from requiring all employees physically entering the workplace to be vaccinated for COVID-19...”*

- U.S. EEOC

Rogge Dunn, a Dallas labor and employment attorney, [told CNBC](#) many of his corporate clients are leaning toward making vaccines mandatory.

“Under the law, an employer can force an employee to get vaccinated, and if they don’t take it, fire them,” said Dunn.

Dunn said some businesses may even see being able to tout an all-vaccinated staff may be attractive to customers and clients, saving businesses he’d talked to



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considered for all federal employees. Government employees in [California](#) and in [New York City](#) must show proof of vaccination or get weekly COVID-19 testing.

This is a developing story. KXAN will update with more details.

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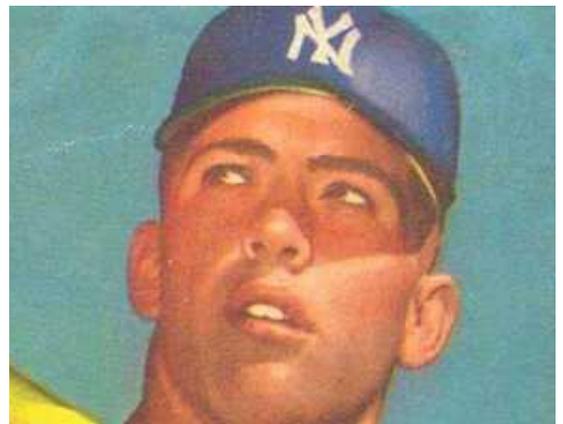
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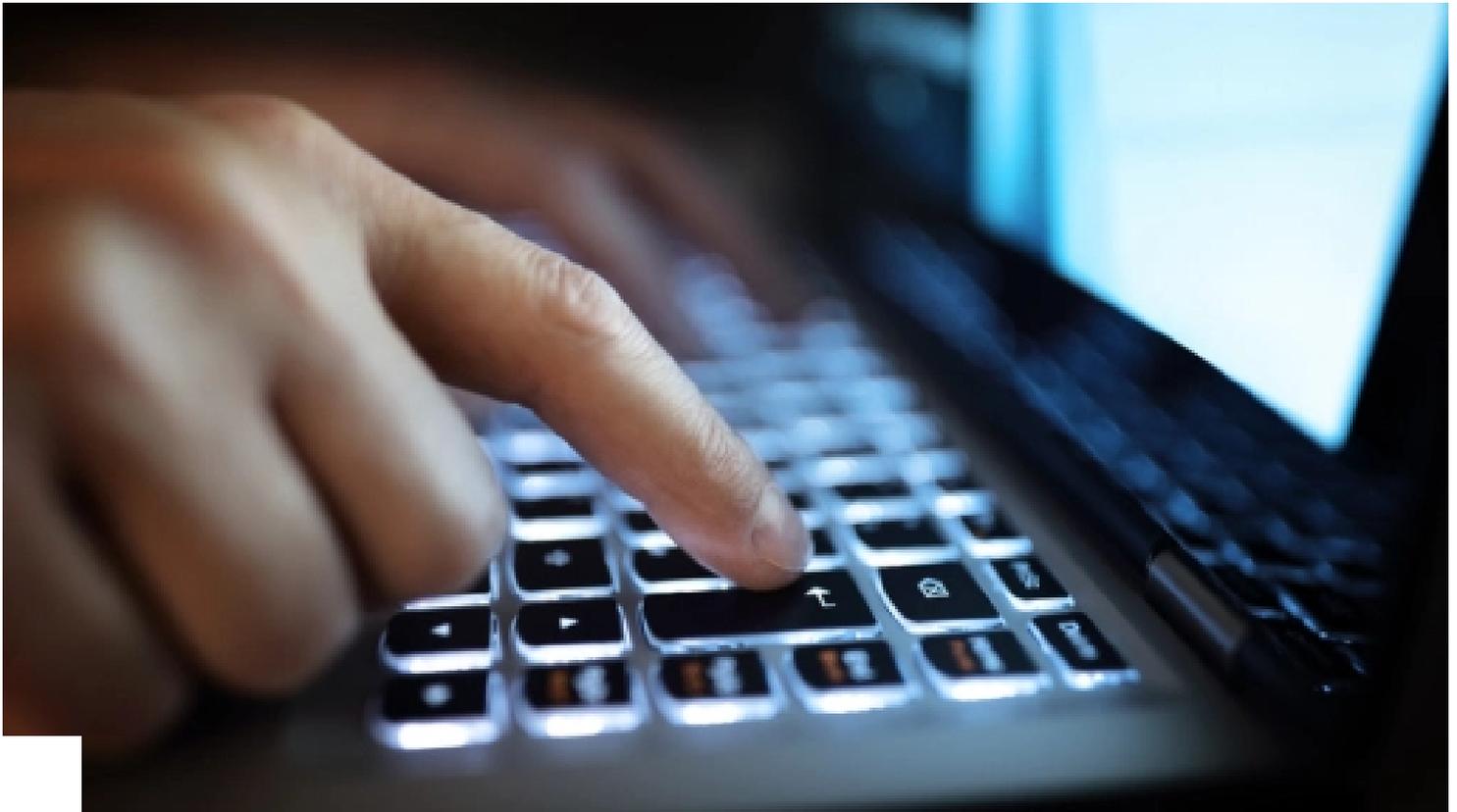
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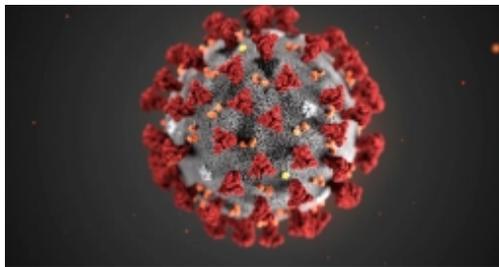


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MAPS: How many people are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in your zip code?

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DATA: There are 6,276 active COVID-19 cases in the KXAN viewing area as of Wednesday

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DATA: For the first time since February 9, more than 10,000 COVID-19 cases were reported

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AUSTIN WEATHER

Current
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Sunny

Tonight
75°

Partly Cloudy
Precip: 0%

Tomorrow
98°

Scattered Showers
Precip: 20%

LATEST CENTRAL TEXAS COVID-19 CASES



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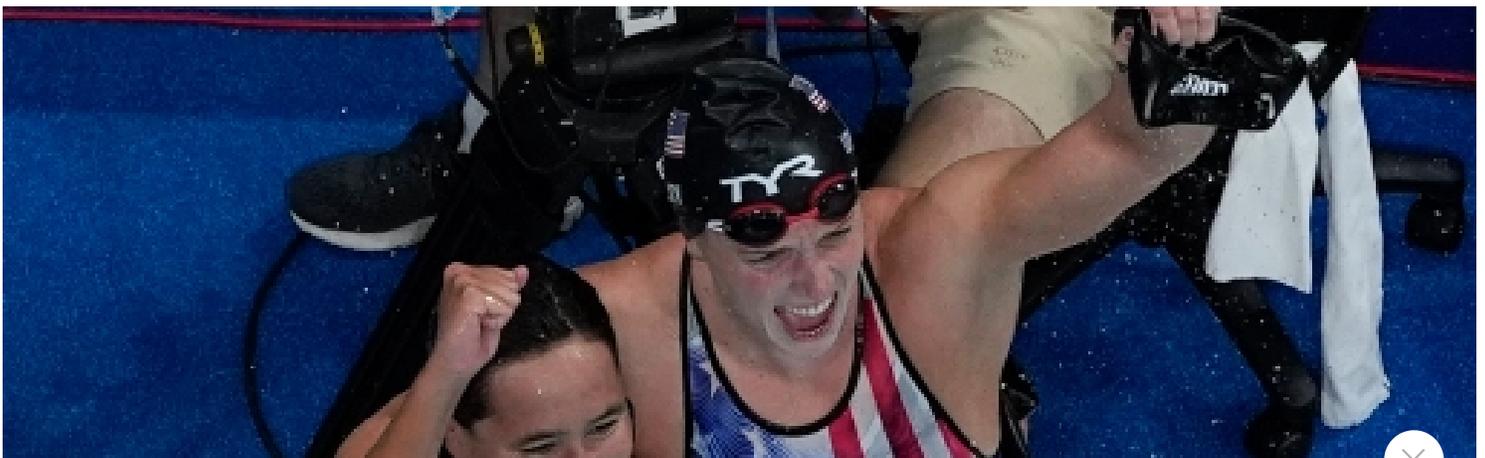
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