

# 12/25/20 Continuation Order/Action to the Declaration of a Public Health State of Emergency in Greene County

COVID 19 is a highly infectious, unpredictable, viral disease not before observed in humans, and one in which there is no known natural immunity and NO definitive treatment or cure. Increased personal safety measures such as: 1) hand hygiene, 2) social distancing, 3) and wearing of infection control masks/facial coverings when social distancing is not possible or practical are the only measures available to assist in improving the County's and region's infection rate trend. Due to extremely high and wide community spread, new infections and County deaths have rapidly surged, therefore, CONTINUED action is necessary to urge and advise the public to continue to take personal safety measures to try and suppress the spread of this serious virus within our community. Greene County currently has confirmation of 5,295 total cases of COVID 19 (Coronavirus) since the first case was reported on Friday, March 20, 2020. From the total case count, Greene County has 4,270 inactive/recovered, 88 deaths, and 902 current active cases reported by the Northeast TN Reg. Health Dept. as of 5:00 pm EST, Friday, December 25, 2020.

## Individual Actions

1. All residents of Greene County and its municipalities are **strongly urged** to continue to conduct only absolutely essential work/activities/business and/or errands.
2. All residents of Greene County and its municipalities are **strongly urged** to take extra personal safety protection measures when traveling/vacating/recreating.
3. **All residents of Greene County and its municipalities are mandated to wear an infection control mask or other handkerchief facial covering in public if possible, 1) especially after traveling/vacating/recreating, 2) when social distancing is not practical; and/or 3) in a general activity public setting (i.e. grocery store, shopping, or other location/s where large groups may congregate and close, prolonged contact is likely). See Greene County Executive Order #5 in this document below.**
4. All residents of Greene County and its municipalities are **strongly urged** to conduct as much business and/or errands by internet, phone, and/or by standard mail as possible.
5. All residents are **strongly urged** to continue to social distance! Attempt to maintain 6 ft. distance from all other individuals.
6. **Tennessee Governor Bill Lee has issued an Executive Order covering all 95 counties limiting Public/Social/Mass activity gatherings to 10 persons or less. Religious services (weddings, funerals, & worship) are exempt. The Governor continues to strongly urge mask wearing and social distancing of 6ft. between persons for all gatherings where possible.**
7. All members of the public, (residents and visitors), conducting business at any Greene County Government Facility will be required to wear an infection control mask or quality cloth facial covering for the duration of their visit before being admitted.
8. **Our actions can directly and most importantly, UNKNOWNINGLY AND ADVERSELY affect our neighbors, the elderly, the immunocompromised, and those with serious health problems.**

**\*\*All residents are strongly urged to follow the CDC guidelines for infection control. (cdc.gov)\*\***

## **\*\*\*\*1) If you feel sick, even mild symptoms, stay at home and away from others.**

- 2) If your children are sick, keep them at home!
- 3) If someone in your household has tested positive for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home.



- 4) If you are elderly, stay home and away from other people!
- 5) If you are a person with a serious underlying health condition (i.e., impaired lung or heart function, weakened immune system), stay home and away from other people.
- 6) Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others.
  - a. Complete work or schooling from home whenever possible.
  - b. If you work in a critical infrastructure/industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services, medicine and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.
  - c. Strongly urged not to attend inside public gatherings where social distancing is not possible.
  - d. Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips, and social visits.
  - e. Do not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- 7) Practice good hygiene and frequent sanitization:
  - a. Wear an infection control mask or other handkerchief facial covering if possible, in public settings when social distancing is not possible.
  - b. Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
  - c. Avoid touching your face.
  - d. Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
  - e. Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
  - f. Social distance! Attempt to maintain at least 6 ft. distance from all other individuals.

### **Business, Industry, Restaurant and Retail Action**

1. Nearly ALL Greeneville and Greene County business, industry, restaurants, and retail establishments along with mass attendance facilities, and social/recreational/sporting venues are open under special infection control and operational guidance by the Governor. TENNESSEE PLEDGE, (compliance with CDC sanitation and infection control guidelines). All business, industry, restaurants, retail, mass attendance, social/recreational/sporting venues are strongly urged to take such action as necessary to comply with the CDC infection control guidelines.
  - A) social distancing (6 feet separation between individuals).
  - B) sanitization of workspaces, carts, and common areas.
  - C) hygiene procedures of employees (frequent hand washing).
  - D) question screening of employees/customers for fever, sickness, symptoms.
  - E) PPE (personal protective equipment: gloves, masks, face shields, protective aprons or gowns, plastic/lexan barriers, etc.) for situations where social distancing or working groups to comply with 6ft. between persons are not possible.
2. Grocery Stores/Food Service Stores/Restaurants, and all food preparation/food service establishments are strongly urged to continue to take immediate action to protect employees and customers by having employees wear PPE (personal protective equipment: gloves, masks, face shields, protective aprons or gowns, plastic/lexan barriers, etc.) while handling, stocking, serving, or distributing snacks, food, produce, groceries, and related consumer items, and observing strict hygiene and sanitization practices.
3. Restaurants are further urged to encourage patrons and diners to eat, drink, socialize outside/open air dining where possible and practical to promote social distancing. (if space and tables are available and weather permitting)



4. Go to TN.GOV for COVID 19 response. This link connects to the Executive Orders of the Governor for this declaration. <https://www.tn.gov/governor/about-bill-lee.html>. Follow link, then click on Governor Bill Lee for a drop- down menu, see Executive Orders.

### Governmental Action

- 1) All Greene County Government Offices and Facilities are open to public access. All residents are required to wear an infection control mask or other cloth facial covering and social distance with 6ft. between persons when transacting business at all Greene County government offices.
- 2) Elected Officials, Department Heads, and Employee Supervisors are required to have employees wear an infection control mask or other handkerchief facial covering during all interactions with members of the public and in all common areas (hallways) of the Main Courthouse and the Courthouse Annex or other Greene County Facility where members of the public are present.
- 3) **Elected Officials, Department Heads, and Employee Supervisors are advised to implement reduced/rotational or some other form of modified/contingency staffing to keep all offices open and staffed and services available to our public. Effective 12-11-2020.**
- 4) Elected Officials, Department Heads, and Employee Supervisors are also strongly urged to talk with and monitor their employees for sickness and virus symptoms. Employees that have symptoms, test positive, or are identified as a "High Risk" contact to others that are infected or have tested positive, should: 1) not return to work, 2) should have a "return to work plan" based on Health Department/CDC guidance, and 3) communicate regularly with your supervisor/department head about your status and schedule.
- 5) Any employee that develops and/or is experiencing symptoms consistent with Coronavirus (fever, difficulty breathing, cough, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, loss of taste/smell, nausea, diarrhea), should not report to work; notify their supervisor of symptoms and status; contact the employee clinic and/or their primary care physician for instructions for care/testing/treatment and a return to work plan.
- 6) **The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) has issued updated guidance for returning to normal activities (work/school) and public interaction and required quarantining of individuals that test positive or exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Please see these latest recommendations for testing, isolation, quarantining, and returning to normal activity at the TN Department of Health website (tn.gov) and/or the CDC guidelines at the CDC website (cdc.gov).**
- 7) Employees at a minimum should wash/sanitize hands frequently, avoid touching their face, and sanitize workstations/service counters and service windows regularly.
- 8) Doors at all Greene County Offices and Facilities should and will remain clearly marked with signage indicating alternative business means and contact methods: office phone numbers, extensions, email, websites, and other pertinent information for the public if necessary.
- 9) Court functions, legal filings, and access to the Main Street Courthouse will CONTINUE to be limited only to business as ordered by the State Supreme Court and as necessary by our local judicial authorities.
- 10) **All employees and residents conducting general business, clerks of the court, security, judicial officers, litigants, counsel, and all other residents or attendees inside the Main Courthouse WILL**



**WEAR and are required to wear an infection control mask or other facial covering while inside the Courthouse by Order of the Supreme Court and policy of our local judicial authorities.**

- 11) Greene County Convenient Centers and Solid Waste pickup will observe normal operating hours. Convenient Center attendants will strictly observe personal distancing from members of the public disposing of garbage and discourage any loitering at the centers.
- 12) **I EXPECT** Greene County Government and its employees to be the example of compliance with the CDC guidelines and ALL of the Executive Orders of the Governor.

As of 5:00pm EST, Friday, December 25, 2020, a Public Health State of Emergency continues to exist in Greene County, Tennessee. We are likely to see continued record increases in the coming days and weeks as community spread continues to rapidly surge. All residents of Greene County and its municipalities are strongly urged to take all personal protective measures as necessary to try and avoid becoming infected with this known deadly virus. A complete list of Governor Bill Lee's Executive Orders can be found here: <https://www.tn.gov/governor/about-bill-lee.html>. Follow link, then click on Governor Bill Lee for a drop-down menu, see Executive Orders.

1. The increased community spread of this virus continues to rapidly surge within our community and State. Tennessee and Greene County has some of the highest per capita infection rates in the country.
2. Confirmed cases have grown drastically due to asymptomatic carriers and unchecked community spread.
3. It is our responsibility to do all we can to prevent the spread of this virus and protect those around us and those most vulnerable.
4. Wear a mask or other quality facial covering if possible, especially where prolonged, close contact is likely in public settings and social distancing is not possible.
5. DO NOT allow yourself to just return to unguarded, reckless habits.
6. DO NOT jeopardize you or your family's health and safety and erode our vigilance to suppress the infection rate of this virus within our community.
7. Tennessee has experienced several days of a record number of new cases, in addition to 6,436 (confirmed and probable) deaths due to COVID 19 as of 5:00pm EST, Friday, December 25, 2020.

## GREENE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 5

### Extending the Order Requiring the Wearing of Infection Control/Facial Coverings in Greene County, TN

Whereas, on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, I issued Greene County Executive Order #1, (see GCEO #1 attached), and then subsequently issued Greene County Executive Orders #2, #3, and #4 respectively extending GCEO #1 through Friday, October 30, 2020 requiring all residents, visitors, employees and/or patrons of all Greene County businesses, industry, restaurants, retail stores, organizations, and/or venues are required to wear or shall require the wear and/or proper use of infection control masks or other such quality cloth facial coverings to assist with the control/suppression of droplet/breath/projectile transmission of COVID 19; and,

Whereas, Greene County has experienced record levels of new infection cases, and with a great percentage of transmitters being asymptomatic creating an unknown, invisible risk for continuing spread, and having very limited definitive treatment and no vaccine available; and with the best options for suppression being: 1) hand hygiene, 2) social distancing, and 3) the wearing of an infection control mask or other quality cloth facial covering in all areas where prolonged, close contact is likely, and social distancing is not possible; and,



Whereas, these personal protective measures are highly urged and advocated by healthcare and infectious disease experts, and are reported to have a suppressive impact on the spread of COVID 19, and with new infections and hospitalizations in Greene County and across the northeast Tennessee region dramatically rising, and with Greene County leading the area in deaths due to COVID 19, and with our healthcare treatment capability on the cusp of being overwhelmed, CONTINUED action is necessary for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents, visitors, and workers of Greene County from this unpredictable viral disease; and,

Now, therefore, I, Kevin C. Morrison, Mayor of Greene County, Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as the Mayor of Greene County, and specifically pursuant to the authority delegated to me via Executive Orders #54, #55, #59, and #67 issued by Governor Bill Lee, Governor of Tennessee, do hereby issue this Executive Order and direct the following:

The requirement of all residents, visitors, employees and/or patrons of all Greene County businesses, industry, restaurants, retail stores, organizations, and/or venues to properly wear infection control masks or other such quality facial coverings in Greene County in all areas where prolonged, close contact is likely, and social distancing is not possible as fully set forth in Mayoral Executive Order No. #4 dated Wednesday, September 30, 2020, which became effective at 12:01 am EST on Thursday, October 1, 2020, and scheduled to expire at 11:59pm EST on Friday, October 30, 2020 is hereby EXTENDED and shall now remain in effect until 11:59pm EST on Tuesday, December 29, 2020.

Issued this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.

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Kevin C. Morrison, Greene County Mayor

#### GREENE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 1

Whereas, COVID 19 is a highly infectious, unpredictable, viral disease not before observed in humans, and one in which there is no known natural immunity and NO definitive treatment or cure, and constitutes a public health emergency; and,

Whereas, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID 19 outbreak a global pandemic; and, on March 12, 2020, Bill Lee, Governor of Tennessee declared a State of Emergency in response to the COVID 19 Pandemic; and, on March 13, 2020, Donald Trump, President of the United States declared a National State of Emergency in response to the COVID 19 pandemic; and, on March 20, 2020, Greene County became the first County in Upper East Tennessee to declare a public health state of Emergency; and,

Whereas, significant community transmission has, and is occurring. Greene County's infection rate has surged more than 150% in the past 21 days to 157 total cases, 91 recoveries, 2 deaths, and 64 current active cases; And Tennessee has recorded a record daily rise in the number of cases Statewide now at 65,274 including: 36,996 recoveries, 749 deaths and 3,284 hospitalizations; and,

Whereas, with new infection cases nearly tripling in the last week causing significant alarm and concern within our local healthcare community to be able to successfully treat this influx; and, acknowledging the unpredictable course of this disease from individual to individual and the known additional treatment time and resources required for recoveries should a case develop from mild to serious life threatening symptoms; and,

Whereas, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the US Surgeon General, the Tennessee Department of Health, and medical leaders in Greene County including the Greene County Medical Society recommend the wearing of infection control masks/facial coverings to reduce the transmission of COVID 19; and,

Whereas, CONTINUED action is necessary to urge and advise the public to take personal safety measures to further prevent the spread of this serious virus within our community and prevent our healthcare system from being overwhelmed; and,

Whereas, Bill Lee, Governor of Tennessee has issued a series of Executive orders for instruction, response, and actions by individual residents, business, industry, and local government to COVID 19 at TN.GOV. And, this link connects to the Executive Orders of the Governor for this declaration. <https://www.tn.gov/governor/about-bill-lee.html>. Follow link, then click on Governor Bill Lee for a drop- down menu, see Executive Orders; and,

Now, Therefore, I, Kevin C. Morrison, Mayor of Greene County, pursuant to State of Tennessee Executive Order Number 54, and the laws of Tennessee execute the following:

1. Effective at 12:01am, on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, all residents, visitors, employees, or patrons of business, industry, restaurants, retail, organizations, or venues are required to wear or shall require the wear/use of infection control masks or other such facial coverings to assist with control of droplet/breath/projectile transmission of COVID 19.
2. Infection control masks/facial coverings should be worn properly covering the nose and mouth in all environments, especially in public where there is general public activity (i.e. grocery store, shopping, or other location/s and activities) where large groups may congregate and close, prolonged contact between persons is likely and where social distancing cannot be maintained.




3. Infection control masks/facial coverings SHOULD NOT be worn by children under 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, unable to remove the mask without assistance, or otherwise has conditions in accordance with the CDC that would preclude wearing a mask.
4. Places of worship are exempt from the requirements of this order, pursuant to Governor Lee's Executive Orders No. 38 and 50.
5. This order does not require business, industry, restaurants, retail, organizations, or any venue to supply infection control masks or facial coverings.
6. Use of infection control masks/facial coverings shall not be required by members of the public while seated for the purpose of dining in any restaurant or business that provides food and/or drinks for on-site premises consumption or other business as defined by the Tennessee Pledge.
7. Greene County, Tennessee continues to be governed in all other aspects by Tennessee State Law and the Executive Orders issued by Governor Lee.
8. This order shall remain in effect until 11:59pm on August 14, 2020, unless modified or withdrawn by future orders or by the State of Tennessee.

Issued this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020.

Kevin C. Morrison, Greene County Mayor

**All residents are strongly urged to continue to:**

- 1) Do Not travel unless absolutely necessary. Take extra personal safety protection measures when traveling/vacating/recreating and/or in a public setting where social distancing is not possible.
- 2) Social distance. Keep at least 6ft or more separation between persons if possible.
- 3) Use good judgment and practice frequent infection control hygiene and sanitation. Wash hands frequently.
- 4) Wear an infection control mask or other quality grade cloth mask over your mouth and nose in areas where close, prolonged contact with others is likely and social distancing is not possible to maintain.
- 5) TAKE THIS PANDEMIC SERIOUSLY. THIS VIRUS IS UNPREDICTABLE FROM PERSON TO PERSON.
- 6) DO NOT ASSUME THAT MILD SYMPTOMS OF SICKNESS ARE ALLERGIES, A COLD, STREP, OR OTHER AILMENTS. IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL STAY AWAY FROM OTHERS.
- 7) DO NOT ASSUME IF YOU GET INFECTED, THE SYMPTOMS WILL BE MILD AND TRANSIENT.
- 8) NOW is the time to remain vigilant and committed to infection control measures as we reopen the economy and increase other activities.
- 9) We MUST do all we can to prevent the further spread of this serious, invisible, ON-GOING public health threat.
- 10) There is NOT a definitive treatment and NO cure, and the consequences can be deadly for any age or condition, but especially the elderly, those with co-morbid illness, previous cancer treatment, diabetes, or obesity.

 12-25-2020  
Kevin C. Morrison  
Greene County Mayor 2020 HRS.