

GREENE COUNTY GOVERNMENT



KEVIN C. MORRISON, MAYOR

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GREENE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 7

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 reissued extensions of said order under the emergency powers and authority granted to the Governor of Tennessee under TCA 58-2-107 and delegated to me via Executive Orders #54, #55, #59, and #67, respectively extended GCEO #1 through 11:59pm on Tuesday, December 29, 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, Tennessee and Greene County are unfortunately amongst the lead in the nation for per capita new infections and continues to experience record levels of new infection cases and increasing deaths, and with a great percentage of transmitters being asymptomatic creating an unknown, invisible risk for continuing, wide community spread, and having very limited definitive treatment and with promising vaccinations just beginning; and with the best options for suppression being: 1) frequent 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 the Governor, our area healthcare and infectious disease experts, and are reported to have a suppressive impact on the spread of COVID 19, and with our healthcare treatment capability on the verge 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, #67, and #73 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. #5 dated Friday, October 30, 2020, which became effective at 12:01 am EST on Saturday, October 31, 2020, and scheduled to expire at 11:59pm EST on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 is hereby EXTENDED pursuant to Governor Lee's Executive Order #73 and shall now remain in effect until 11:59pm EST on Saturday, February 27, 2021.

Issued this 28th day of December 2020.

1316 hrs.

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 14th day of July 2020.

Kevin C. Morrison, Greene County Mayor