



Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto

www.wilsoncountyttn.gov
228 E. Main St., Room 104
Lebanon, TN 37087
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September 28, 2020

Re: Wilson County Mask Mandate

Dear Citizens of Wilson County,

On July 3rd, Governor Lee signed Executive Order 54, giving mayors of 89 Tennessee counties the authority to issue local mask requirements in the event of a significant rise in COVID-19 cases. Wilson County's mask mandate went into effect on July 17, 2020. At that time, Wilson County's 14-day average was **40.4**. We have continued to research the COVID-19 data of Wilson County and its surrounding counties since the reporting began in early 2020. Wilson County followed the lead of Governor Lee when he amended Executive Order 54: first, on July 31st, when Wilson County's 14-day average was **40.1** cases per day; second, on August 28th, when Wilson County's 14-day average declined to **24.1** cases per day. On September 25th, the 14-day average decreased to **22.1**.

I would like to thank the Wilson County COVID-19 Taskforce for their guidance, as well as for passing out masks and educating the public throughout the past several months. I am also appreciative of Tim Diffenderfer, Wilson County Health Department Director, and Olivia Spooner of the Tennessee Department of Health, for their continued guidance throughout this process. Furthermore, I would like to thank my office staff, who have patiently answered phone calls and assisted citizens by responding to their many questions. I am also thankful for the people of Wilson County for putting others before themselves. The compliance of Wilson countians has significantly impacted the decrease of COVID-19 cases in our community. After reviewing the downward trends of the past months, I am hopeful that the number of COVID-19 cases in Wilson County will continue to decrease (see www.wilsoncountyttn.gov).

After carefully reviewing the number of COVID-19 cases and trends, I have made the decision to rescind the mask mandate in Wilson County on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 11:59p.m. CDT. My decision to withdraw the mask mandate does not mean that I do not encourage mask wearing, nor does it impact schools, businesses, or long-term care facilities, which develop their own policies and procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. By taking this next step, I am requesting that citizens continue these practices without having a mandate in place. I will continue to watch the number of COVID-19 cases in our county and encourage others to practice frequent hand washing, social distancing and wearing masks when in public places. We will get through this pandemic by continuing to work together and support one another.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randall Hutto".

Randall Hutto
