



Randall Hutto
County Mayor
Wilson County Government

Contact:

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April 1, 2020

To Wilson County Residents:

We agree with the Tennessee Medical Association recommendation to encourage local orders instead of out of state orders to decrease the number of out of state trucks from entering our state. This organization reminds us that while the elderly and those with chronic healthcare issues like heart disease, lung disease, cancer, and immunosuppression issues appear to be at higher risk, we are seeing young, healthy people requiring intensive care support in our hospitals as well. While many cases are mild and self-limited, up to 15% of cases require hospitalization, 10% require intensive care, and 5% require ventilators (to date), and these effects are usually seen in the second week of illness.

Therefore, we ask all Wilson County residents, regardless of age engage in doing their part to stop the spread. Most importantly, make sure that we educate ourselves and others on best practices to stop the spread of the virus.

We have asked our local health departments to contact all our restaurants and other related facilities to be sure they are following the CDC Health Guidelines and Governor Lee's Executive Order requests. The Health Department will also share with each business best practices that should be used at this time.

Our school system has been at work in encouraging their teachers to contact their students and continue learning from a distance. There is also a large wave of people who have joined together to feed our children while they are not at school.

We ask all citizens to pay attention to the little things like cleaning your credit card once you receive it back from the cashier, sanitize your hands after pumping gas, clean your cell phone often and make other small adjustments that make a difference.

There are many great things in the works, but the most important part of this declaration is "you". You can make the difference by engaging in a positive way. We all are counting on you to get involved.

COVID-19 case count for Tennessee is now 2,239 as of March 31, 2020 including 23 deaths and 175 hospitalizations. Wilson County now has 39 cases reported. We must improve our efforts to do everything possible to contain this virus. No matter how much we as a government try to prevent this virus from spreading, the solution always comes back to each individual. We need you to stay at home and save lives.

Sincerely,

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Wilson County's Second Declaration for COVID-19

Pursuant to the authority in TCA 58-4-104, Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto, extended the declaration of a State of Local Emergency on April 1, 2020 granting to the County Mayor certain powers as allowed under TCA 58-2-110. This declaration gives political subdivisions of government, both City and County, the ability to waive procedures relative to "performance of public works and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community."

Mayor Hutto convened the Wilson County Board of Health, the Director of WEMA, the Chief of EMS, the CEO of Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital, TEMA, the Director of Wilson County Health Department, and Tennessee Department of Health representatives on March 17th. They met again on March 23rd with city mayors of Mt. Juliet, Lebanon, and Watertown and the city manager of Mt. Juliet on the situation and response to COVID-19. The team determined the best direction was to consistently follow the State of Tennessee Executive Order No. 17 signed by Governor Lee on March 22, 2020 which was issued "to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by limiting social gatherings, dine-in service, and gym use, and exposure at nursing and retirement homes, and providing flexibility for restaurants regarding the sale of alcohol."

On Monday, March 30th, the same group of individuals, now known as the Wilson County COVID-19 Taskforce, joined together again on a conference call. The taskforce had a discussion of our current environment and on planning for the days ahead. We were eager to hear the Governor's conference call that would lay out Executive Orders 21 & 22. As a result of previous meetings, the Governor's Executive Order 21 & 22, meeting with local law enforcement officials, and our meeting of March 30th, the following guidelines will be in place for Wilson County:

1. All of the Constitutional Officers and County Department heads controlling or supervising facilities that allow the General Public physical access will be limited, beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020 until further notice.
2. County offices will remain open and with limited staff. Certain court functions and filings will still occur; however, there will be limited public access to those buildings consistent with the Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court regarding access to the courts. All County

facility doors will be posted with signage indicating the office phone numbers, extensions, website and online services access as well as other pertinent information for the transaction of the public's business by phone, fax, the internet, and or other means that office or department may develop.

3. In accordance with Tennessee Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order No. 17 and the guidelines presented by the CDC, Wilson County will adopt an attendance policy, per this declaration order. This document, along with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act will give Wilson County Department Heads the freedom to provide office personnel with the safest environment. This policy is backed by the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America on March 16, 2020, in the Governor's Executive Order No. 17 under *a, f*, and #3. Each Department Head or Elected Official oversees how to implement this policy in their office.

4. **In accordance with the provisions of Executive Order #17 of the Honorable Bill Lee, Governor, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America and the guidance from the CDC, to limit the spread of COVID-19 so that normal life and activities may resume as soon as possible:**
 - a. Persons in Wilson County, Tennessee shall not participate in social gatherings of ten (10) or more people. For purposes of this ORDER, social gatherings do not include the activities of blood collection/donation agencies like the Red Cross. **This provision taken directly from the Executive Order #17 with minor revisions specific to Wilson County, Tennessee.**

 - b. Persons in the State of Tennessee shall not eat or drink onsite at restaurants, bars, or other similar food or drink establishments, and shall not visit gyms or fitness/exercise centers or substantially similar facilities. **This provision is taken directly from the Executive Order #17.**

 - c. Restaurants, bars, and similar food or drink establishments, including nightclubs, shall not be open to persons, except only to offer drive-through, pickup, carry-out, or delivery service for food or drink, and persons are highly encouraged to use such drive-through, pickup, carry-out, or delivery options to support such businesses during this emergency. **This provision is taken directly from the Executive Order #17.**

 - d. Gyms or fitness/exercise centers or substantially similar facilities shall not be open to members or the public, although persons are highly encouraged to use any available electronic or virtual fitness options to support such businesses during this emergency. **This provision is taken**

directly from the Executive Order #17.

- e. Persons in the State of Tennessee shall not visit nursing homes, retirement homes, or long-term care or assisted-living facilities, unless to provide essential assistance or to visit residents receiving imminent end-of-life care, provided such visits may be accomplished without unreasonable risk to other residents. Persons are highly encouraged to use available electronic or virtual communication to spend time with their family members, friends, loved ones, and other persons in those facilities. **This provision is taken directly from the Executive Order #17.**
- f. Persons and businesses should take particular care to protect the well-being of those populations especially vulnerable to COVID-19, including older adults and persons with compromised immune systems or serious chronic medical conditions, by, among other things, taking care to adhere to all precautions advised by the President and the CDC and refraining to the extent practicable from physical contact and association. Businesses should further consider implementing measures to protect our most vulnerable populations by, for example, offering delivery service or special opportunities for members of vulnerable populations to shop in retail establishments exclusive of the general population. **This provision is taken directly from the Executive Order #17.**
- g. This Order does not mandate sheltering in place and does not prohibit persons from visiting places necessary to maintain health and economic well-being, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, among other places, so long as they observe the necessary precautions advised by the President and the CDC to reduce the spread of COVID-19. **This provision is taken directly from the Executive Order #17.**
- h. All critical infrastructure remains operational, and government entities and businesses will continue providing important and essential services. **This provision is taken directly from the Executive Order #17.**
- i. For offices, workplaces, and businesses that remain open, employees should work from home where feasible, and employees and their customers should practice good hygiene and observe the necessary precautions advised by the President and the CDC to reduce the spread of COVID-19. **This provision is taken directly from the Executive Order #17.**
- j. As to all facilities and businesses open to the public that are not precluded from operation or limited in allowing the public to be on the premises under Governor's Order or hereinabove, and in order to reduce the number of persons on the premises at any one time, we encourage

those businesses to take affirmative actions to limit and enforce a limit of the number of patrons who can be within that premise to less than 10 at any given time. Large facilities should limit access proportionately. **This provision is specific to Wilson County only.**

2. **The following are taken directly from Executive Order #17 of the Honorable Governor, Bill Lee and as Beer, but not alcoholic beverages are regulated in the unincorporated area, these are adopted as they relate to the sale of Beer.** As to Beer, the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 57, and related rules and other state or local laws, orders, rules, or regulations are temporarily suspended to the extent necessary to allow restaurants and limited service restaurants, as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-4-102, and wine-only restaurants, as permitted by Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-4-101(c), to sell for take-out or delivery alcoholic beverages or beer, so long as the following conditions are met:
 - a. Any sale of an alcoholic beverage or beer is for consumption off the premises of the restaurant, limited service restaurant, or wine-only restaurant (collectively referred to hereafter as "restaurant") and is accompanied by the sale of food in the same order;
 - b. An alcoholic beverage or beer sold under this Paragraph 5 must be packaged in a container or bottle with a secure lid or cap and in a manner designed to prevent consumption without removal of the lid or cap, and customers shall not remove such lids or caps while operating a motor vehicle;
 - c. Single servings of alcoholic beverages or beer and multi-serving bottles or containers of beer or wine normally sold by the restaurant may be sold under this Paragraph 5, but not bottles of spirits or liquor;
 - d. A restaurant selling alcoholic beverages or beer under this Paragraph 5 shall prominently post a warning in a manner reasonably calculated to provide notice to customers of open container laws, which must include the following language from Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-10-416: "No driver shall consume any alcoholic beverage or beer or possess an open container of alcoholic beverage or beer while operating a motor vehicle in this state";
 - e. An employee or contractor of a restaurant providing or delivering alcoholic beverages or beer to a customer under this Paragraph 5 shall not provide or deliver such beverages to any person under twenty-one (21) years of age and may not provide or deliver such beverages to a person who is visibly intoxicated. Any such employee providing or

delivering alcoholic beverages or beer must visually inspect a valid government-issued document deemed acceptable to the restaurant that includes the photograph and birth date of the adult consumer attempting to make an alcoholic beverage purchase and confirms that the person is at least twenty-one (21) years of age;

- f. A person delivering alcoholic beverages or beer under this Paragraph 5 must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and must have a valid driver license; and
- g. An alcoholic beverage or beer sold under this Paragraph 5 must be sold during current operating hours.
- h. Any state or local law, order, rule, or regulation inconsistent with this Order is hereby suspended.

3. **In accordance with the provisions of Executive Order #16 of the Honorable Bill Lee, Governor**, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America and the guidance from the CDC, to limit the spread of COVID-19 so that normal life and activities may resume as soon as possible do hereby further order the following:

- a. As a reasonable measure to protect the safety and welfare of Tennesseans while ensuring that government business may continue in a manner that is open and accessible to the public, the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 44, Part 1, are hereby suspended for all Wilson County, Tennessee (the governing body) public meetings as necessary to allow a governing body, as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-102, to meet and conduct its essential business by electronic means, rather than being required to gather a quorum of members physically present at the same location. In doing so, the governing body **will conduct that meeting electronically without any members of the General Public allowed, only the attending members of the commission, and staff directly related to the meeting will be in physical attendance as determined by the Chair**, to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans considering the COVID-19 outbreak, subject to the following conditions:
- b. The governing body meetings conducted by electronic means under this Order shall remain open and accessible to public attendance by electronic means, as follows: Wilson County will make reasonable efforts to ensure that the public access to the meeting via electronic means is live access, but if the governing body cannot provide such live public

access despite reasonable efforts, the governing body will make a clear audio or video recording of the meeting available to the public as soon as practicable following the meeting, and in no event more than two business days after the meeting; and

- c. This Order does not in any way limit existing quorum, meeting notice, or voting requirements under law, and governing bodies will provide the public with clear notice of the meeting agenda and how the public can access the meeting electronically at a time and location reasonably accessible to all members of the public; and
- d. The provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-108(c), remain in effect; and
- e. All such meetings shall be conducted in a manner consistent with Article I, Section 19 of the Tennessee Constitution. **This provision (3), and all subparts, is taken directly from the Executive Order #16 with the proper outline and notice of procedures for compliance.**

Per State of Tennessee Executive Order #21, Now Therefore, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and other applicable law, do hereby declare that a state of emergency continues to exist in Tennessee and order the following:

Effective immediately, Executive Order No. 17, dated March 22, 2020, is amended by adding the following new subdivisions g. and h. to Paragraph 1:

- g. Businesses or organizations that perform close-contact personal services shall not be open to members or the public. Such businesses or organizations include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Barber shops;
 - ii. Hair salons;
 - iii. Waxing salons;
 - iv. Threading salons;
 - v. Nail salons or spas;
 - vi. Spas providing body treatments;
 - vii. Body-art facilities or tattoo services;
 - viii. Tanning salons;
 - ix. Massage-therapy establishments or massage

services.

- h. Entertainment and recreational gathering venues shall not be open to members or the public. Such venues include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Night clubs;
 - ii. Bowling alleys;
 - iii. Arcades;
 - iv. Concert venues;
 - v. Theaters, auditoriums, performing arts centers, or similar facilities;
 - vi. Racetracks;
 - vii. Indoor children's play areas;
 - viii. Adult entertainment venues;
 - ix. Amusement parks; or
 - x. Roller or ice-skating rinks.

Per State of Tennessee Executive Order #22, Now Therefore, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and other applicable law, in light of the continuing state of emergency to facilitate the response to COVID-19, and to keep the citizens of the State of Tennessee safe and healthy, do hereby order the following statewide:

1. **Safer at home.** Because staying at home as much as possible for a temporary period of time will protect the health and safety of Tennesseans by limiting the spread of COVID-19 and preserve health care resources, all persons in Tennessee are urged to stay at home, except for when engaging in Essential Activity or Essential Services as defined in this order.
2. **Closure of non-essential businesses for public use.**
3. **Essential Activity and Essential Services should be limited.**
4. **Essential Service businesses should follow (CDC) Health Guidelines.**
5. **Employers shall not require or allow employees with COVID-10 to work** (until that employee has satisfied the conditions for discontinuing home isolation under CDC guidelines).
6. **List of Essential Services detailed in Attachment A.**
7. **Executive Order Nos. 17 and 21 remain in full force and effect.**
8. **Essential Activity, as defined in the order (Item 8, a-g).**
9. **Essential Travel, as defined in the order (Item 9, a-f).**

10. **Critical infrastructure remains open and operational.**
11. **Special care should be taken to protect vulnerable populations.**
12. **Suspension of laws that would limit application of this Order.**
13. **No repeal of local orders.** Nothing herein repeals, preempts, or otherwise limits the authority, if any, of a locality to issue further orders or measures on these same subjects.
14. **Severability.** If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this Order which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this Order are declared to be severable.
15. **Term and effective date.** This Order shall be effective and enforceable at 11:59 p.m., Central Daylight Time, on March 31, 2020, and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m., Central Daylight Time, on April 14, 2020, at which time the suspension of any state laws and rules and the other provisions of this Order shall cease and be of no further force or effect.

Per Attachment A to (State of TN) Executive Order No. 22, Essential Services include the following (detailed in said attachment):

1. **Personnel identified on pages 5-15 of the Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response** issued by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) of the United States Department of Homeland Security, available at https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf.
2. **Health Care and Public Health Operations.**
3. **Human Services Operations.**
4. **Essential Infrastructure Operations.**
5. **Essential Government Functions.**
6. **Food and Medicine Stores.**
7. **Food and Beverage Production and Agriculture.**
8. **Organizations that Provide Charitable and Social Services.**
9. **Religious and Ceremonial Functions.**
10. **Media.**
11. **Gas Stations and Businesses Needed for Transportation.**
12. **Financial Institutions and Insurance Entities.**
13. **Hardware and Supply Stores.**
14. **Critical Trades.**
15. **Mail, Post, Shipping, Logistics, Delivery, and Pick-up Services.**
16. **Educational Institutions.** For purposes of facilitating distance learning, providing food or shelter, performing critical research, or performing essential functions, provided that the (CDC) Health Guidelines set forth in Executive Order No. 22 are followed to the greatest extent practicable.

17. **Laundry Services.**
18. **Restaurants for Off-Premises Consumption.**
19. **Supplies to Work from Home.**
20. **Supplies for Essential Business and Operations.**
21. **Transportation.**
22. **Home-based Care and Services.**
23. **Residential Facilities and Shelters.**
24. **Professional Services.**
25. **Manufacturing, Distribution and Supply Chain for Critical Products and Industries.**
26. **Hotels and Motels.**
27. **Funeral Services.**
28. **Any business related to Essential Activity, as defined in Executive Order No. 22, while maintaining adherence to the (CDC) Health Guidelines.**
29. Any other business or organization that operates at all times with ten (10) or fewer persons accessing the premises of the business or organization at a time, including employees, customers, and other visitors; provided, that the premises allows for operation within the (CDC) Health Guidelines and that such Health Guidelines are followed at all times; or
30. The minimum necessary activities required to maintain any business or organization, whether otherwise essential or not, including:
 - a. Maintaining the value of the business's or organization's inventory;
 - b. Preserving the condition of the business's or organization's physical plant and equipment, livestock, or other assets;
 - c. Ensuring the security of the business or organization;
 - d. Processing the business's or organization's mail, payroll, and employee benefits;
 - e. Facilitating employees of the business or organization being able to continue to work remotely from their residences; or
 - f. Conducting any functions related to these activities.

Wilson County has asked its Chambers of Commerce to communicate with all businesses throughout the county to encourage their businesses to do the following four things:

1. The businesses or factories that must remain open follow the guidelines supplied by the health department to ensure the safety of their employees and a safe working environment. We have supplied guidelines to the Chambers for them to distribute, (ex.) lunchroom gatherings.
2. Ask every business or retail store that must remain open to limit the number of customers in at any given time to no more than ten (10).

3. Ask every business or retail store to provide markings in the checkout lines, for cashiers and self-checkout lines, to keep a 6-foot distance while waiting in line. We also ask that each business enforce this distancing within their store.
4. We ask that each business takes a close personal look at their business to determine if they are essential at this time and close their businesses if they are non-essential, per the Governor's Executive Order.

Wilson County Sheriff's Office and City Police Chiefs have been asked to do at least two things on their rounds per day, if possible:

1. If they see public gatherings of over 10 or more that they ask them to separate with social distancing per the Governor's Executive Order. (Ex.) Fast food/Restaurant parking lots, Parking areas of all store fronts.
2. As they make their rounds daily and observe a business that was deemed non-essential by the Governor's Executive Order, to stop in and inform them of the order.

WEMA is to establish a taskforce that will make their rounds daily to nursing homes, long-term health care facilities, assisted living areas, as well as other senior care facilities to determine needs and establish best practices with the guidance that has been provided by the CDC and State Health Department.

WEMA will ask this taskforce to check-in on the rescue missions and homeless areas as well. To determine needs and directions to move these facilities and areas, and to keep a safe and secure environment by using the resources that already exist in Wilson County.

WEMA will also monitor the receipt and distribution of equipment to all emergency care facilities, as well as continuing to update policy and procedures for all our first responders.

WEMA has been in conversation with the State Health Department and local hospital about capacity and future needs for this pandemic regarding space and equipment on the planning level. WEMA has been working with the Department of Health to set up Surge Facilities.

All future Executive Orders signed by Tennessee Governor Bill Lee in response to COVID-19 are hereby automatically accepted and endorsed by Wilson County.

Be it so ORDERED this 1st day of April 2020, Mayor Randall Hutto


