



COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER ADDRESSING MASKS AS FACE COVERINGS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

**BY WASHINGTON COUNTY MAYOR
WILLIAM J. GRANDY
July 7, 2020**

WHEREAS, this Executive Order Addressing Masks as Face Coverings in Washington County, Tennessee is made by the Mayor of Washington County, Tennessee, pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order No. 54 which delegated to county mayors without locally run health departments the authority to issue orders concerning face coverings in public for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) remains a threat to Tennesseans in Washington County, our healthcare systems, and our economy, and each Tennessean in Washington County should continue to protect themselves and others by following applicable health guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other leading medical experts to slow the spread of this virus, including practicing social distancing, effective personal hygiene practices, and “wearing cloth face coverings in public settings and when around people who don’t live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain”; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Economic Recovery Group crafted “The Tennessee Pledge” as specific industry guidance that reflects a careful, measured approach to rebooting the economy with an outline of how businesses can protect workers and customers with social distancing, masks and other measures; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Governor of the State of Tennessee issued an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 58-2-107(e)(1); and

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2020, the Governor of the State of Tennessee issued an Executive Order (No. 50) facilitating and responding to the continuing effects of COVID-19 by extending Executive Order Nos. 36 & 38 (as amended by Executive Order No. 49); and

WHEREAS, on July 3, 2020, the Governor of the State of Tennessee issued an Executive Order (No. 54) providing local governments with authority concerning face coverings; and

WHEREAS, the number of persons testing positive for COVID-19 continues to increase in Tennessee and specifically throughout the Northeast Tennessee region, including Washington County; and

WHEREAS, wearing a cloth face covering is a simple step that each Tennessean in Washington County can take to slow the spread of the virus, reducing the need for more drastic and disruptive measures for the economy and job market;

WHEREAS, after consultation with the City Manager of The City of Johnson City and a number of local officials conducting government business in public buildings, the County Mayor finds that there is a consensus that the wearing of cloth or other face coverings should be required in certain circumstances, and that such a requirement should take effect as soon as possible;

WHEREAS, in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic and the health, safety, and welfare of residents of Washington County, it is in the public interest that this Order Addressing Masks as Face Coverings in Washington County, Tennessee is made by the Mayor of Washington County, Tennessee, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 54 which delegated to county mayors without locally run health departments the authority to issue orders concerning face coverings in public for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY DELEGATED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 54 AND PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR LEE'S RECOGNITION OF A CONTINUING STATE OF EMERGENCY AND MAJOR DISASTER RELATED TO COVID-19 I, William J. Grandy, Mayor of Washington County, Tennessee issue this Order directing the following:

1. Face Coverings in County Public Buildings -- Except for the exemptions recognized by the CDC, all people 12 (twelve) years or older shall wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in the common area of a Washington County public building, or when working in areas of a Washington County public building that involve close proximity with others.
2. Face coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief. Washington County residents should continue to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while in Washington County public buildings.
3. Washington County will continue to take the temperature of visitors to Washington County public buildings.
4. Washington County employees also are required to wear face coverings under the same circumstances as the general public.
5. The reference to Washington County public buildings includes but is not limited to: (a) the Historic Courthouse in Jonesborough; (b) the Johnson City Annex of the Washington County offices of the County Clerk & Trustee; (c) Washington County Archives; (d) the Washington County George Jaynes Justice Center.
6. Municipal buildings of Johnson City, Tennessee fall within this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order does not apply to:

1. Any person who is under age 12;

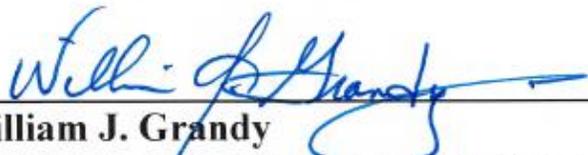
2. Any person who cannot safely wear a face covering because of trouble breathing due to an underlying health condition or another bona fide medical or health-related reason for not wearing a face covering;
3. Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance; or
4. Persons for whom wearing a face covering would pose a safety or security risk.
5. Municipal, County, and State courtrooms where the judges shall direct the rules concerning the use of masks and face coverings and other safety measures.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that County public buildings and facilities subject to this order shall post signage at public entrances informing patrons of the requirement to wear a mask within the building, and shall enforce the requirement within the building.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that commercial business establishments that sell goods or services, or a combination thereof, including but not limited to grocery stores, restaurants, lobbies and public spaces in hotels and other places of lodging, pharmacies, banks, bars, salons, retail stores, medical and dental offices, and entertainment and sports venues be encouraged to follow this Order and the Guidelines of The Tennessee Pledge.

This Order is declared to be effective at 12:01 a.m., Eastern Daylight time, on July 8, 2020, and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight time, on August 3, 2020, unless it is necessary by subsequent Order to extend the same as permitted by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Washington, Tennessee, to be affixed this the 7th day of July, 2020.



William J. Grandy
Washington County, Tennessee Mayor