



**COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 5  
CONTINUING REQUIREMENT OF MASKS AS  
FACE COVERINGS  
IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
PUBLIC PLACES**

**BY WASHINGTON COUNTY MAYOR  
WILLIAM J. GRANDY  
September 30, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, this Executive Order Continuing Requirement of Masks as Face Coverings in Washington County, Tennessee is made by the Mayor of Washington County, Tennessee, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders No. 54, No. 55, and No. 63 which delegated to county mayors without locally run health departments the authority to issue orders or measures requiring or recommending the wearing of 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**, the American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, and American Nurses Association, on July 6, 2020 issued an open letter to the American Public advising that we must resist confusing re-opening with returning to normalcy because doing so would result in more suffering and death, and urging the three simple steps of wearing a face mask, maintaining physical distancing, and washing hands; 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 subsequent Executive Orders); 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**, on July 7, 2020, Washington County issued an Executive Order addressing face masks in Washington County public buildings and facilities, and encouraging commercial business establishments to follow the Order and the Tennessee Pledge; and

**WHEREAS**, ON July 9, 2020 the Supreme Court of Tennessee issued its Order Regarding Face Coverings requiring all persons who enter a courthouse or other building in which court facilities are located to wear a face covering at all times while inside the building; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 28, 2020, the Governor of the State of Tennessee issued an Executive Order (No. 59) facilitating and responding to continuing effects of COVID-19 by amending prior executive orders including Executive Orders (No. 54 and No. 55) providing local governments with authority concerning face coverings; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 29, 2020, the Governor of the State of Tennessee issued an Executive Order (No. 63) facilitating the continued response to Covid-19 and extending certain targeted provisions, including the provision to local governments the 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**, the Johnson City Medical Center, located in Washington County, is a 445-bed regional tertiary referral center for the entire service area, and one of five Level 1 Trauma Centers in the State of Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, wearing a cloth face covering, maintaining physical distancing, and washing hands are three simple steps that each Tennessean in Washington County can take to slow the spread of the virus, reducing the likelihood that the Johnson City Medical Center will near its ICU capacity; and reducing the need for more drastic and disruptive measures for the economy and job market; and

**WHEREAS**, after consultation with the Mayor and City Manager of The City of Johnson City, the Mayor of the Town of Jonesborough, 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 encouraged and required in certain circumstances, and should take effect as soon as possible;

**NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY DELEGATED BY EXECUTIVE ORDERS NO. 54, AS AMENDED BY NO. 55, AND EXTENDED BY NO. 63, 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 Public -- Except for the exemptions recognized by the CDC, in accordance with CDC guidance, all persons 12 (twelve) years or older, including employees or customers of businesses, are required to wear cloth face coverings or other similar coverings in public settings where being in close proximity to others is anticipated, and particularly where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain at all times.
2. Face Coverings in Schools and Higher Education Institutions. Local education agencies, schools, and institutions of higher education are strongly encouraged to implement a policy requiring the use of face coverings by students and staff, with appropriate exemptions, and consistent with any policies issued by the Tennessee Department of Education. No policy, local order, or official may prohibit a student, teacher, school employee or contractor or visitor from voluntarily wearing a face covering except to the extent that such face covering presents a safety or security risk.
3. Face coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief to allow them to be created from household items and/or made at home from common materials at a low cost.
4. All 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 are required to follow this Order and encouraged to follow the Guidelines of The Tennessee Pledge.

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


1. Within one's residence or automobile (unless transporting others for hire);
2. Any person who is under age 12;
3. 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;
4. Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance; or
5. While outdoors, unless the person cannot substantially maintain appropriate social distancing from others outside of the person's household;
6. While working under conditions where appropriate social distancing from others outside of the person's household is substantially maintained;
7. In situations in which wearing a face covering would pose a safety or security risk;
8. While in a house of worship unless required by that house of worship, but wearing a face covering in such locations is strongly encouraged;
9. While in a voting site for the purpose of voting or administering an election, but wearing a face covering in such locations is strongly encouraged; or

10. 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 the County Executive Orders issued July 7, 2020 , July 13, 2020, August 3, 2020, and August 28, 2020 remain in effect.

This Order is declared to be effective at 11:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight time, on September 30, 2020, and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight time, on October 30, 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 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William J. Grandy", written over a horizontal line.

**William J. Grandy**

**Washington County, Tennessee Mayor**