



# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sept. 29, 2020

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## **Mayor Grandy to extend face covering requirement through Oct. 30**

JONESBOROUGH – After careful consideration, and with advice from our Regional Health Department and other local health officials, Washington County Mayor Joe Grandy will extend the current face covering requirement set to expire at 11:59 p.m. Wednesday.

In light of Governor Bill Lee’s removal of all restrictions on businesses and limitations on gathering size, Mayor Grandy want citizens to be mindful of wearing face coverings where physical distancing is not possible.

“I appreciate the public’s support of wearing face coverings for the past 77 days to slow the progress of COVID-19,” Grandy said. “Business leaders have indicated to me that they would prefer to keep the order in place, insuring uniform use of face coverings at all businesses in our county.”

With schools returning to in-person learning, the decision was made to extend the face covering requirement to see what impact school-related activities have on the spread. Tennessee’s Department of Education encourages the use of masks in classrooms state-wide, but leaves the final decision up to local school districts.

Recent letters sent to area high schools regarding fans wearing mask played into the mayor’s decision, as did input from small business owners who want to keep doors open.

“Continuing to wear face coverings will help keep our businesses and schools open, as well as enable us to continue football on Friday nights,” Grandy said. “We need to work together to support and protect each other as we move forward.”

Use of face coverings where physical distancing of six feet or more is not possible is shown to slow the spread of COVID-19, as well as other respiratory diseases like the flu. Current figures from the Tennessee Department of Health indicate that while we are in a downward trend, we need to continue mask use as we head into flu season.

“As our numbers of new COVID-19 cases and hospital admissions have decreased, several individuals have told me they would continue to wear face coverings voluntarily whether there was an order in place or not,” he said. “I do believe wearing a face covering indoors when in close quarters with others is a viable way to stop the spread of disease.”

The first executive order regarding face coverings began with county buildings back on July 8, followed by the county-wide requirement issued on July 13. The order set to expire this week began on August 28.

To view previous and current executive orders regarding face coverings, please visit [washingtoncountyttn.gov](http://washingtoncountyttn.gov) and click on COVID-19 updates.