



Press Release

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Mayor issues local emergency order, safer at home directive for Washington County

JONESBOROUGH –Washington County Mayor Joe Grandy announced today, in conjunction with other mayors in our region, he is issuing an Executive Order declaring a Local State of Emergency and a Safer at Home Directive.

“In response to local health leadership, including those from our state and regional health departments, East Tennessee State University’s Quillen College of Medicine and Ballad Health, I am issuing an Emergency Order and Safer at Home Directive to become effective on April 1 at 12:01 a.m.,” Mayor Grandy said. “Last week it became apparent that we had cases that were the result of community spread and not travel related. Some test results are delayed three to five days, so the data we are receiving is not real time.”

Under Tennessee state law, county mayors can declare a local state of emergency for a period not to exceed seven days, but the law gives authority to the county mayor to extend the local state of emergency in increments of seven days.

The Safer at Home Directive directs all residents living within the unincorporated areas of Washington County to remain at their place of residence unless they are engaged in essential activities or to report for work at an essential business. Many essential activities are included in the Safer at Home Directive. All essential activities should include proper distancing from others as well. Essential businesses are listed in the directive.

Both the order and directive are available on the county’s web site, www.washingtoncountyttn.org, under COVID-19 Updates.

“This is part of a consolidated, regional effort made out of an abundance of caution,” Grandy added. “Your county, city and town leaders from across our region were in constant contact over the weekend to make these decisions. We are asking our citizens to follow the guidelines set forth to limit the impact this virus has to our region’s well-being.”