



# Press Release

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## Washington County serving public, protecting employees

JONESBOROUGH – To keep its employees healthy and slow the community spread of COVID-19, Washington County government closed the Historic Courthouse and its Johnson City office to the public this week.

“We’re now taking a second approach to keep our staff safe,” said County Mayor Joe Grandy. “We offered the option to department heads and elected officials to allow alternate team work schedules.”

In a memo to staff dated March 23, Grandy recognized that limitation on public access presents a suppression of services that impacts staffing needs. He encouraged department heads and elected officials to coordinate with staff and address any concerns with work schedules. For instance, team members doing similar job functions can alternate days working in the office and telecommuting. This helps employees abide by social distancing guidelines yet still perform their assigned duties. No employees working for the county are laid-off due to these changes and all county offices are operational.

“Accommodations are being made for employees to either telecommute or adjust schedules due to the current health emergency,” Grandy said. “We continue to take our cues from the regional health department and are applying their directives while still doing the daily business of Washington County.”

While Governor Bill Lee’s orders have impacted daily life, one order did impact business in the County Clerk’s Office. Through Executive Order No. 15, Gov. Lee extended the deadline for obtaining registration renewals that expire in March or April. The new deadline for obtaining these renewals is June 15, 2020.