



PRESS RELEASE

August 29, 2020

For Immediate Release

Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain has extended through the month of September his order requiring county residents and visitors to wear a mask or facial covering in public as an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the county.

Mayor Brittain continued the mask requirement after Tennessee Governor Bill Lee renewed the authority of county mayors to issue mask mandates. The county mayor's newest executive order (#2) is effective through September 30, 2020.

"We have experienced a gradual decline over the last month of active COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and the daily average of new cases," Brittain said. "Not everyone is convinced that wearing masks help prevent the spread of the virus, but a combination of masks, social distancing, avoiding large crowds and washing hands frequently are the measures that many health experts recommend and we need to continue following them."

"The County's Coronavirus Task Force will continue our work monitoring the healthcare systems, emergency medical services, the testing and the prevention campaigns," Brittain said. "The battle against COVID-19 is not a sprint. It's more like a marathon and our community needs to be diligent with its efforts to keep each other safe."

- End -

Bill Brittain, County Mayor

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**County Mayor
Executive Order No. 2**

Extension of Facial Coverings Requirement

WHEREAS, County Mayor Executive Order #1 requiring residents and visitors of Hamblen County to use cloth facial coverings or masks in public spaces and businesses with noted exceptions was issued in an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, County Mayor Executive Order #1 is effective through 11:59 p.m. August 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, in Executive Order #59, has extended the authority for county mayors to issue mask orders through September 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) opines that wearing masks, following social distancing recommendations, avoiding large crowds and washing hands regularly are effective measures to prevent the spread of the virus; and,

WHEREAS, the number of active cases of COVID-19, the average number of new cases per day and the number of hospitalizations in Hamblen County have gradually decreased since County Mayor Executive Order #1 was issued.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain pursuant to the authority delegated by Governor Lee's Executive Orders #54, #55, #59 and the laws of the State of Tennessee do declare that County Mayor Executive Order # 1 will continue and be in effect until 11:59 p.m. September 30, 2020.

Issued this 29th day of August, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Brittain".

Bill Brittain, County Mayor

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HAMBLLEN COUNTY MAYOR EXECUTIVE ORDER ONE

WHEREAS, a global pandemic of COVID-19 has reached the shores of the United States of America and spread to all parts of the country including Hamblen County, Tennessee;

WHEREAS, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee on March 12, 2020 declared a State of Emergency to deploy additional resources to combat the spread of the virus and followed that declaration with numerous executive orders directing Tennesseans how to prevent spreading the virus and how to conduct business, attend school, church and other daily activities while protecting ourselves, our friends and our families from getting sick;

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Health and other national health experts say the most effective methods of preventing the spread of the virus are to avoid large crowds, stay home when we are sick, keep six feet apart in public from non-family members, wash your hands frequently and wear facial coverings or masks when in public;

WHEREAS, cases of COVID-19 in Hamblen County, Tennessee have risen significantly during the past six weeks and have reached all areas of the community with no regard to age, gender or ethnic group;

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2020 Governor Lee extended the term of Executive Order 54 giving county mayors the authority to require residents and visitors to their counties to wear cloth facial coverings or masks in public;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain, pursuant to authority delegated by Executive Order 54 and 55 and the laws of the State of Tennessee declare the following order:

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, all residents and visitors of Hamblen County, Tennessee are required to wear cloth facial coverings or masks when in a public spaces or businesses especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain with the following exceptions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and included in Executive Order 54:

- 1) Within one's residence or automobile, unless transporting others for hire;
- 2) By a child twelve (12) years of age or younger;
- 3) By individuals who have trouble breathing due to an underlying health condition or another bona fide medical or health-related reason;

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- 4) By individuals who are incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth facial covering without assistance;
- 5) While eating or drinking;
- 6) While outdoors, unless the person cannot substantially maintain appropriate social distancing from others outside of the person's family members;
- 7) While working under conditions where appropriate social distancing from others outside of the person's family is substantially maintained;
- 8) In situations in which wearing a face covering poses a safety or security risk;
- 9) While in a house of worship unless required by that house of worship, but wearing a face covering in such locations is strongly encouraged; or
- 10) While in a voting site for the purpose of voting or administering an election, but wearing a facial covering at voting locations is strongly encouraged.

This order shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on August 29, 2020, unless otherwise modified or withdrawn by future Orders or by the State of Tennessee.

Issued this 2nd day of August, 2020



Bill Brittain, Hamblen County Mayor

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