



PRESS RELEASE

August 2, 2020

For Release 12:01 a.m.

Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain today issued an order requiring county residents and visitors to wear a mask or facial covering in public in an effort to reduce the spread of the coronavirus in the county. The order is effective August 4 through August 29.

Mayor Brittain said the “mask mandate” is the next logical step to impact the spread of the virus. “Our coronavirus task force has been preaching and teaching the use of a mask for several weeks, and we believe it works. More people are wearing them and we want to intensify the message with the order.”

Executive Order 54, in which Tennessee Governor Bill Lee delegated the authority to require masks to the county mayors in the 89 counties where the state operates the health departments, expires Monday, August 3rd. The governor extended that authority through August 29th in Executive Order 55 on Friday. Brittain chose not to issue a mask order a month ago, but he believes now is the time to act.

“We need to do everything we can to try to open our public schools in September while keeping students, teachers and staff safe,” Brittain said. “Second, we need to help our senior adults with health conditions feel confident they can go out in public and feel safe because everyone is protecting each other by wearing their masks. Finally, we need to support our healthcare workers who are physically and emotionally exhausted from their efforts to treat the patients who have the virus.”

Brittain said the Coronavirus Task Force will continue its work monitoring the healthcare systems, the testing, and the prevention campaigns going on throughout the county. He asked all citizens to do their part by following the CDC guidelines of social distancing, by washing their hands frequently, by staying home when they are sick and by wearing masks.

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Bill Brittain, County Mayor

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