



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR  
**BRENT GREER**

# County of Henry

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## DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EFFECTIVE APRIL 9, 2020

**WHEREAS**, a novel coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19, has spread through the world and has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee declared a State of Emergency to deploy additional resources to combat the spread of the virus, and on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency over the coronavirus pandemic, and on April 2, 2020, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee issued Executive Order #23 which requires every Tennessean to stay Safer at Home, related to the pandemic, which has adversely impacted our citizens and our businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 28, 2020, Henry County began experiencing community spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Scott Whitby, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Lisa Casteel, CEO; Dr. John Beddies, Chief of Staff, Dr. Jim Carruth, Medical Director of Pulmonology, Dr. Mengistu Yemane, Medical Director of Hospitalists, Dr. Charles Rainbolt, Medical Director of Emergency Department, all of Henry County Medical Center, have urged that Henry County take aggressive steps to contain COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee law, including, but not limited to Tennessee Code Annotated § 58-8-104 and § 58-2-110, empowers the County Mayor to declare a local state of emergency and to take whatever action is prudent and necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Brent Greer, Mayor of Henry County, Tennessee, pursuant to the laws of the state of Tennessee, do hereby declare that a local State of Emergency for public health is hereby declared for Henry County, Tennessee, pursuant to section 58-8-104 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, and further direct and order as follows:

1. **Enforcement of Governor's Executive Orders.** The Henry County Sheriff and his deputies shall strictly enforce Governor Bill Lee's Executive

Orders pertaining to COVID-19 in the unincorporated areas of the County. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Sheriff shall enforce the following requirements mandated by Governor's Executive Orders:

- a. ***Shelter at Home***. All individuals currently living in the unincorporated areas of Henry County, Tennessee are required by the Governor's Executive Order #23 to stay at home except for when engaging in Essential Activity or Essential Services as those terms are defined in the Governor's Executive Order #22.
  - b. ***Travel Restrictions***. All individuals currently living in the unincorporated areas of Henry County, Tennessee are prohibited by the Governor's Executive Order #22 from traveling, except for Essential Travel as defined in said executive Order.
  - c. ***Only Essential Services Businesses May Remain Open***. The Governor's Executive Orders #17, 21 and 22 require that all businesses or organizations located in the unincorporated areas of Henry County, Tennessee that do not perform Essential Services (as that term is defined in the Governor's Executive Order #22) shall not be open for access or use by the public or its members. This does not restrict virtual or telework operations.
  - d. ***Essential Services Businesses should follow Health Guidelines***. The Governor's Executive Order # 22 requires businesses located in the unincorporated areas of Henry County, Tennessee which remain open to take steps to the greatest extent practicable to equip and permit employees to work from home, and employees and their customers should practice good hygiene and observe the Health Guidelines and necessary precautions advised by the President and the CDC to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
2. **Criminal Prosecution for Violations**. Any person who willfully violates the Governor's Executive Orders pertaining to COVID-19 is subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.
  3. **Essential Government Functions**. In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order # 22, the Henry County Government shall continue to provide essential government functions.
    - a. ***Public Hours Limited***. Public access to Henry County Government facilities, including the Henry County Courthouse and Courthouse Annex, shall be limited to the hours of 8AM to 10AM Monday through Friday. All other access for county services will be by appointment with the specific county office. Citizens are encouraged to call ahead for instructions to be best served.

- b. **On Call/Work from Home.** The following offices of the Henry County government shall remain open for transactional business between the hours of 8 AM and 10 AM Monday through Friday; thereafter, they shall send non-essential staff home to either work remotely or remain “on call” and available to return to their respective offices if, and when, called upon until 4:30 PM:
    - i. Accounts and Budgets
    - ii. Administrator of Elections
    - iii. Assessor of Property
    - iv. Office on Aging
    - v. Property Subdivision and Codes Enforcement
    - vi. Register of Deeds
    - vii. County Clerk
    - viii. Trustee
    - ix. Veteran Service Office
    - x. W.G. Rhea Public Library (731) 642-1702
  - c. **Court Offices.** In consultation with the Honorable Donald E. Parish, presiding Judge for the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District, and the Honorable Vicki S. Snyder, Henry County General Sessions and Juvenile Court Judge, the Circuit, Chancery, General Sessions, and Juvenile Court offices will operate on the same “On Call/Work from Home” schedule until further Orders of the Court.
  - d. **Non-Essential Government Services.** All Henry County government offices may limit services to those deemed essential in the discretion of the official responsible for managing the office, except that emergency services shall not be limited.
  - e. **Emergency and Essential Services.** Emergency Services and those governmental services defined as Essential Services by the Governor’s Executive Order #22 shall not be limited.
4. **Business Requirements.** The following apply to businesses located within the unincorporated areas of Henry County, Tennessee which remain open:
- a. **CDC Guidelines.** All employees and customers shall comply with social distancing guidelines. All businesses shall maintain a high level of

sanitation and employee hygiene in accordance with CDC guidelines and designate at least one employee ensure that such guidelines are followed.

- b. ***Businesses with Numerous Simultaneous Customers.*** The following applies to businesses which permit more than 25 customers to access their premises simultaneously:
- i. Such businesses shall allow no more than 20% of stated fire capacity in their premises at the same time (note that this reduced capacity is approximately 150 square feet per person). Such businesses shall designate one or more employees to count the number of customers entering and exiting the store and to enforce this limit.
  - ii. Such businesses shall (A) clearly mark 6' spacing in checkout (and other) lines and other high-traffic areas; (B) maximize space between customers and employees at checkout; and (C) designate employees to monitor social distancing.
  - iii. Such businesses are encouraged to post signage or use ropes to direct customers and to limit bottlenecks/encourage flow in high-density areas of stores.
  - iv. These requirements do not apply to any hospital or medical services provider.
5. **Term.** The state of emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed. To the extent that this Declaration conflicts with any prior Declaration still in effect, this Declaration shall control. This order will take effect at 12:01 AM (CST) on Thursday, April 9, 2020.

DECLARED this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

  
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Brent Greer, Henry County Mayor