FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 30, 2020

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Safer at Home Health Order issued for Sullivan County, local emergency declared for City of Bristol

Officials from the Sullivan County Regional Health Department have issued a Safer at Home Health Order for the citizens of Sullivan County effective beginning at 12:01 AM EDT on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 that will remain in effect until further notice. The order was signed by Health Officer Dr. Stephen May in order to mitigate the regional impact of COVID-19, reduce the strain on healthcare resources and ultimately save lives.

This order urges citizens to shelter at home as much as possible except when engaging in essential activities. These include:

- Trips to the grocery store or pharmacy
- Medical appointments
- Visiting restaurants for take-out or drive-thru service
- Caring for friends and family members in need
- Enjoying outdoor recreation.

CDC guidance on proper hand hygiene and social distancing, such as maintaining a distance of six feet between people, should continue to be followed at all times.

The order also prohibits gatherings of more than 10 people and orders the closure of businesses not performing essential services as determined by health department officials. Directives are provided for certain essential businesses that remain in operation, and the order does not apply to activities supporting the critical infrastructure sectors described at https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19.

In conjunction with the Safer at Home Health Order, Bristol, Tennessee Mayor Margaret Feierabend and City Manager Bill Sorah also issued an Executive Order proclaiming a local and civil emergency within the City of Bristol, Tennessee. Following declarations by President Donald Trump and Governor Bill Lee that proclaimed emergencies related to the COVID-19
outbreak at the national and state levels, this order recognizes that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public’s health, safety and welfare.

“Many of our friends and neighbors still seemingly have a false sense of security about the impact that the coronavirus could have here in Sullivan County, perhaps due to our case numbers appearing relatively low compared with other parts of the state,” said Feierabend. “The reality is that we all must take serious steps now to avoid a more dire situation in the future.”

The declaration incorporates the provisions of previous Executive Orders issued by Governor Lee pertaining to COVID-19, as well as the recommendations included in the health department’s Safer at Home Health Order.

“Certainly we’ve begun to see the effects that COVID-19 has had on our community, both in economic terms and in the ways that it has already altered the way we think about access to healthcare and critical supplies,” noted Sorah. “Based on trends that health officials are seeing across the country, Bristol is still on the uphill side of the curve. A declaration such as this is necessary to help flatten that curve and ensure that the demand for resources does not exceed our capacity to provide them,” he added.

For the full text of these orders, as well as additional information about the City of Bristol’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit www.bristoltn.org/covid19.
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-01

PROCLAIMING A LOCAL AND CIVIL EMERGENCY WITHIN THE CITY OF
BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

BY MAYOR MARGARET FEIERABEND AND
CITY MANAGER WILLIAM L. SORAH

WHEREAS, beginning in December, 2019, a novel coronavirus which caused a disease now designated as COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and has since spread throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, as of March 29, 2020, 122,653 cases had been reported in the United States, 1,537 cases had been reported state-wide, and 8 cases had been reported in Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures must be taken at the federal, state and local level to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout Sullivan County, the City of Bristol and its surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, these measures include isolation and potential quarantine of individuals, groups of individuals and property, and may include compelling individuals, groups of individual and property to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 presents a danger to the health, welfare and economic well-being of the citizens of the City and may result in an interruption of municipal services affecting the public peace, property, health and safety of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated § 58-8-104 provides that the mayor of a municipality may declare a local state of emergency affecting such mayor’s jurisdiction by executive order consistent with and governed by Tennessee Code Annotated § 58-2-110(3)(A)(v); and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated § 58-8-102 defines an emergency as “an occurrence or threat of an occurrence, whether natural or man-made, that results in or may result in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of property;” and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated § 58-2-110(3)(A)(v) provides that such a state of emergency may be imposed for seven (7) days and may be extended, as necessary, in seven-day increments; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated § 38-9-102 provides that the chief administrative officer of a municipality may find the existence of a civil emergency, and immediately proclaim in writing the existence of such civil emergency; and

WHEREAS, City Code Sections 26-1 through 26-6 vest the power to declare a civil emergency granted to the City under Tennessee Code Annotated § 38-9-101, et seq, in the City Manager; and
WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated § 38-9-101 and Bristol Code of Ordinances § 26-1 defines an emergency to include a natural disaster or man-made calamity that may result in the death or injury of persons, or the destruction of property to such an extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated § 38-9-104 and Bristol Code of Ordinances § 26-4 provide that after the proclamation of a civil emergency, the City Manager as Chief Administrative Officer may, at the City Manager’s discretion, in the interest of public safety and welfare, issue such other orders as are necessary for the protection of life and property; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump issued a Proclamation Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Bill Lee issued Executive Order No. 14 declaring a state of emergency in Tennessee to facilitate the treatment and containment of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Governor Lee has issued subsequent Executive Orders consistent with Executive Order No. 14 and intended to limit the spread of COVID-19 within the State of Tennessee, such being Executive Orders No. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the Sullivan County Regional Health Department issued a Sullivan County Safer at Home Public Health Order (the “Safer at Home Order”) urging residents of Sullivan County to shelter at home, prohibiting gatherings of more than ten people, and closing non-essential businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Safer at Home Order will take effect at 12:01 a.m. on March 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak is a natural occurrence that may result in substantial harm to the population of Bristol, Tennessee and to their property, and has already resulted in the declaration of federal and state emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak constitutes an immediate and significant danger to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Bristol; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Feierabend is the duly elected Mayor of the City of Bristol, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, William L. Sorah, is the duly appointed City Manager of the City of Bristol, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned have made such observations, inquiries, and investigations necessary to determine that an emergency exists under the law of the State of Tennessee and the Code of the City of Bristol, Tennessee; and
WHEREAS, such emergency constitutes an immediate and significant danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Bristol, Tennessee, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the undersigned, as Mayor and City Manager, to exercise the authority granted to them by Tennessee Code Annotated § 58-8-104 and § 58-2-110 and by Tennessee Code Annotated § 38-9-101, et seq., respectively, to minimize the immediate and significant danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the City of Bristol.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF BRISTOL, TENNESSEE:

1. A local and civil emergency is declared pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 58-8-104, 58-2-110, § 38-9-101, et seq. and Section 26-1, et seq. of the Code of Bristol, Tennessee, and the Mayor and City Manager each invoke the authority granted to each of them respectively by such statutes for the duration of the emergency.

2. This Executive Order shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed properly with the City Recorder’s Office.

3. The provisions of Tennessee Governor Bill Lee’s Executive Orders 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 are incorporated herein by reference, including, but not limited to, the provisions of Executive Order 17 pertaining to restaurants and bars, the closure of gyms and fitness centers, the provisions pertaining to working from home if possible, and the prohibition on social gatherings of ten or more people. All individuals and groups of individuals within the City of Bristol should adhere to the Governor’s Executive Orders.

4. The provisions of the Safer at Home Order, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, are incorporated herein by reference, and are declared to be effective and in force within the city limits of Bristol, Tennessee. All individuals and groups of individuals within the City of Bristol should adhere to the Safer at Home Order in all respects, and in particular to those provisions relating to sheltering at home and practicing appropriate social distancing.

5. This Executive Order shall take effect at 12:01 AM EDT on March 31, 2020 and shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days unless extended by further order.

DECLARED this 30th day of March, 2020.
Executive Order No. 20-01
March 30, 2020
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Margaret Feierabend
Mayor

William L. Sorah
City Manager

Tara E. Musick, City Recorder

Approved as to Form
this 30th day of March, 2020

Danielle L. Smith, City Attorney
March 30, 2020

Sullivan County Safer at Home Public Health Order

Pursuant to the Declaration of Public Health Emergency adopted by the State of Tennessee on March 12, 2020, and in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 and pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 68-2-609, which empowers the county health officer to order:

(1) The quarantine of any place or person, if the county health officer finds that quarantine is necessary to protect the public health from an epidemic;
(2) The closure of any public establishment, facility or building if the county health officer finds unsanitary conditions of such a nature and extent to significantly threaten the public health; or
(3) The closure of any public establishment, facility or building, if the county health officer is otherwise authorized by law to take that action.

This Order is being issued to protect the public health of the citizens of Sullivan County, to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, to bend the curve, and to disrupt the spread of the virus, with the goal of saving lives and reducing strain on regional healthcare resources as much as possible.

Citizens of Sullivan County are urged to shelter at home as much as possible. When individuals leave their homes or places of residence, they should practice appropriate social isolation, staying six feet apart, and should assume others are infectious, regardless of whether they exhibit symptoms.

All gatherings are strongly discouraged, and those with more than 10 people are prohibited. Gatherings include any event or convening unrelated to essential services that brings together groups of individuals, including, but not limited to: community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based, or sporting events, parades, concerts, festivals, conventions, fundraisers, and similar activities.

City and County parks may remain open. Citizens using these open spaces are directed to adhere to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on social distancing and hand hygiene, remaining 6 feet apart.

Individuals experiencing homelessness, who may include individuals in shelters and homeless encampments, shall not be subject to this order but shall be encouraged to follow CDC guidance on social distancing and hand hygiene.

All businesses not performing essential services shall close their business facilities, subject to exceptions stated in this Order. Facilities shall remain accessible as needed to service computer and other equipment, process mail, and maintain security.
Nothing in this Order shall prohibit any business possessing applicable licenses or permits from conducting deliveries; however, CDC guidance on social distancing shall be followed when possible.

Nothing in this order is intended to prohibit individuals from performing business functions of nonessential businesses from their own homes, provided that such business functions comply with existing law and are only performed by residents of that home.

This Order does not apply to activities necessary to maintain continuity of operations of critical infrastructure sectors as outlined at https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19 As set forth by the Federal Department of Homeland Security in the link above the federal government has identified 16 critical infrastructure sectors whose assets, systems and networks, whether physical or virtual, are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination thereof. Individuals working in these 16 critical infrastructure sectors may continue their work because of the importance of these sectors to the health and well-being of individuals residing or working in Sullivan County.

Daycare and childcare business shall prioritize children of parents working for essential infrastructure sectors, businesses, or service providers to the extent practicable.

Assisted living facilities, nursing homes, adult daycare centers, home health businesses, and senior residential facilities shall follow CDC guidance on social distancing and hand hygiene to the extent practicable. Non-essential social and educational programs at senior citizen and other assisted living communities and centers shall end until further notice.

Hotels, short term rental properties, commercial lodges, and dormitories shall cease entertainment or dine-in services, subject to allowing food and beverage pick-up and room-service.

Essential services, especially grocery stores and pharmacies, shall make best efforts to establish hours of operations during which their services are available only to senior citizens or otherwise vulnerable populations.

Essential services shall continue to adhere to CDC guidance on social distancing and hand hygiene in the workplace, including encouraging work-from-home and allowing employees when possible to work on-site in shifts to optimize social distancing in the workplace, where possible.

Essential services are encouraged to utilize, to the maximum extent possible, any telecommuting or work-from-home procedures they can safely utilize.

If any provision, sentence, clause, phrase, or word, of this Order or any application of it to any individual, business, or circumstance is held to be invalid by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.
This Order shall be effective at 12:01AM EDT on March 31, 2020 and shall remain in effect. Sullivan County Regional County Health Department will closely monitor the situation every day to determine the Order's duration and any changes that may be necessary.

Andrew Stephen May, M.D., FAAFP
Regional Medical Director/Health Officer
Sullivan County Regional Health Department

Date: 3-30-2020
THE BOTTOM LINE

Residents of Sullivan County are should to stay inside their homes unless they are engaged in certain "essential activities." On those occasions when you are out of your home for necessary tasks, stay at least six feet away from others.

YOU CAN ...

- Go to the grocery, convenience or warehouse store
- Go to the pharmacy to pick up medications and other healthcare necessities
- Go to medical appointments (check with your doctor or provider first)
- Go to a restaurant for take-out, delivery or drive-thru
- Care for or support a friend or family member
- Take a walk, ride your bike, hike, jog and be in nature for exercise — just keep at least six feet between you and others.
- Walk your pets and take them to the veterinarian if necessary
- Help someone to get necessary supplies
- Receive deliveries from any business which delivers

YOU SHOULD NOT ...

- Go to work unless you are providing essential services as defined by this Order
- Visit friends and family if there is no urgent need
- Maintain less than 6 feet of distance from others when you go out
- Visit loved ones in the hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility or other residential care facility, except for limited exceptions as provided on the facility websites.

Is this Order mandatory? What happens if I don’t comply?

Though this is not a criminally enforceable order, for industries public health has regulatory authority over, SCRHD will be performing spot checks for compliance. For other businesses we are relying on business owners to do the right thing and follow the order.

Why is this happening now?

This Sullivan County Regional Health Department Emergency Order is being issued now because it is urgent that we slow and stop the spread of COVID-19 in Sullivan County.
The virus spreads easily, and this Order is also intended to prevent the disease from overwhelming our health care system. The goal here is to “flatten the curve” to slow down the spread of the virus and ensure we have adequate health care resources for those who get sick with COVID-19 and those who need emergency medical care for accidents, heart attacks, strokes, and other routine medical conditions.

**What is the difference between “Safer at Home” and “social distancing”?**

Safer at home is a stricter form of social distancing. There are some differences. Safer at home means:

- Stay home (stay unexposed and do not expose others)
- Only go out for essential services
- Stay six feet or more away from others
- Don’t gather in groups

The other concepts from social distancing will continue to apply when you are out shopping or walking or going to the doctor. These include washing hands, using hand sanitizer, disinfecting surfaces, not going out if sick, and staying at least six feet away from others at all times.

**When does the Order go into effect?**

The Order goes into effect 12:01 a.m. EDT, Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

The *Sullivan County Regional County Health Department* will closely monitor the situation every day to determine the Order’s duration and any changes that may be necessary.

**What are essential activities and what businesses that will stay open?**

The following essential activities will remain open:

- Federal and state offices and services, including post offices and airports
- Essential Sullivan County government functions including law enforcement, transportation, and businesses that provide government programs and services
- Food and beverage: grocery and beverage stores, farmers markets, food banks, catering, convenience stores selling food, agriculture, food processing, feed mills, and other businesses that directly support the food supply
- Health care, mental and behavioral health, and biomedical research and businesses that directly support the healthcare industry including health information technology, staffing and supplies
- Sanitation and waste removal businesses and services
- Energy, water, and sewage businesses and services
• Pharmacies and medical supply businesses, and other businesses that directly support the drug and medical supply pipeline

• Vehicle fuel, support, service stations and businesses

• Banks, savings and loans, insurance companies, accounting businesses, and other business that directly support the insurance and financial services sector

• Legal and judicial services

• Laundromats/laundry/cleaning services

• Home and business repair, hardware supply

• Warehousing and storage

• Construction and facilities design businesses

• Product logistics, transport, and distribution businesses

• Parcel transportation and delivery businesses

• Veterinary and pet supply business and services including agricultural services and the caring and feeding of all livestock and farm animals

• Home and business cleaning and maintenance services

• All businesses which rely upon deliveries may continue, including florists

• Internet and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services)

• Print, online and broadcast media

In addition:

• Daycare and childcare business will remain open, but will prioritize children of parents working in essential services.

• Hotels and commercial lodges will remain open, but must end entertainment or dining services in restaurants or group settings. Pick-up and room-service food services may continue.

• Housing and rental services may continue, but agents should practice social distancing, hold no open houses, or gather in groups larger than 10.

• Essential services listed above may continue as long as appropriate distancing is physically possible and encouraged. These businesses will adhere to CDC guidance on social distancing and
hand hygiene in the workplace, including encouraging work-from-home and allowing employees when possible to work on-site in shifts to optimize social distancing in the workplace.

- All essential services, especially grocery stores and pharmacies, will make best efforts to establish hours when only available to senior citizens or otherwise vulnerable populations.

**What about Government Employees?**

This Order does not apply to employees of government agencies working within the course and scope of their public service employment. Employees of Sullivan County, Kingsport, Bristol, and Bluff City shall follow any current or future directives issued by the Mayor(s) or City Manager’s.

**What about infrastructure and construction?**

Individuals may leave their residences to provide any services or goods or perform any work necessary to the operations, maintenance and manufacturing of essential infrastructure, including without limitation:

- Construction of commercial and institutional buildings, and residential buildings and housing
- Airport operations, food supply, concessions, and construction
- Water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil extraction and refining.
- Roads, highways, public transportation and rail.
- Solid waste collection and removal.
- Flood control and watershed protection.
- Internet and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services)
- And manufacturing and distribution companies deemed essential to the supply chains of the above industries