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PRESS RELEASE

JULY 7, 2020

FROM ROBERTSON COUNTY MAYOR, BILLY A. VOGLE

Dear City Mayors and Citizens of Robertson County:

On July 3, Governor Lee's Executive Order No. 54 granted county mayors in 89 counties the authority to issue local mask requirements in the event of a significant rise in COVID-19 cases. A copy of that Governor's Order is attached. After consulting with health professionals and discussions with city and county leaders, I am issuing a county-wide Executive Order requiring the wearing of face masks in public places. We are currently experiencing a public health emergency. We need everyone's help to slow the trend of rising COVID-19 cases. My purpose is to reduce the rate of infection of this deadly virus.

Over the past couple of weeks, our numbers of confirmed cases have risen dramatically, which is concerning and dangerous.

Pandemic fatigue is real; our confusion and frustration is real...but now is the time to take proactive measures and focus on the health of our family, friends, neighbors and community. Not only has this virus had a detrimental effect on the health and welfare of our citizens but has also been responsible for wrecking our economic welfare.

Robertson County has been in contact today with legal representatives of other surrounding Counties and the legal representatives of the County Technical Advisory Services (CTAS), who represent and advise all Tennessee County governments. Further, CTAS representatives advise

that these issues have been discussed with legal representatives of MTAS, which is the similar entity that represents and advises Tennessee cities. It appears that these parties agree as follows:

1. The Governor's above Executive Order grants to the County Mayor, without any local City action necessary, the authority to require face coverings for all persons in each County, unless exempted by the Governor's Order, and applies to all persons who both reside within the City limits of a municipality within the County, and those persons that reside in the more rural areas of the County outside a City.
2. Upon issuance of such Local Emergency Order by the County Mayor, as Agreed by CTAS and MTAS, such an Order takes the force of State law, and as such is enforceable by not only the County Sheriff's Department, but officers of each municipal police department in the County, in the same manner as any other State Law.

It is my understanding that officials in Williamson County and Sumner Counties have issued such Orders yesterday.

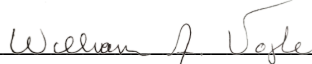
My first thought was to issue an Order which required persons to determine when they entered a public place if, in their judgement, appropriate CDC social distancing could be obtained, and if not, then to either leave or put on a mask at that point. I am advised that because of the ambiguity in such requirement this is likely not legally enforceable and could draw the County into legal action.

Based upon all of the above, I have signed the attached County Executive Emergency Order. I expect other surrounding Counties to soon issue similar Orders.

This is a very fast-moving issue and I wanted to reach out to each of you regarding our understanding of these circumstances. Since Robertson County is in the higher bracket for COVID cases in the State, it seems this would best for the protection of our citizens and guests.

Now it is up to all of us to be responsible and to take the advice of health professionals. We need to change the current dynamic to slow the spread. Health professionals recommend that wearing face coverings is the most effective way to slow the spread of the virus. If community action is not taken, the spread of this virus will continue to intensify and our daily activities will be impacted. If we don't take these steps, we may end up where we started with businesses closing which in turn will have a devastating effect on our family and our ability to earn a living. With this Order, I am asking that you wear a mask. This Order will be enforced.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Thank you for keeping your family and our community safe. God Bless.



Billy A. Vogle, Mayor
Robertson County, Tennessee