



EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE MAYOR OF HENRY COUNTY

EXTENSION OF DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN HENRY COUNTY

REQUIREMENT TO WEAR MASKS TO MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Tennessee, and the Mayors of numerous county and municipal governments throughout Tennessee have made emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 pandemic and have recognized it as a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) advise the use of cloth or other types of face coverings to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, immediate action to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community will facilitate safer operation of governmental entities, healthcare facilities, businesses, and educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, widespread use of face coverings is believed to be effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19 by reducing the chances of symptomatic and asymptomatic people transmitting the virus to others, especially when used together with other protocols including 6-foot social distancing and hand hygiene; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2020, Governor Bill Lee signed Executive Order 65, declaring that a state of emergency continues to exist in Tennessee, and continues to strongly urge all persons to wear cloth face coverings or other similar coverings in public settings where being in close proximity to others is anticipated, and through Executive Order 65, extends the delegated authority of Executive Order 55 to county mayors in the 89 counties that do not have a locally-run health department (including Henry County) to issue orders requiring the wearing of face coverings within their jurisdictions, subject to certain limitations, for the purposes of slowing the spread of 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; and

WHEREAS, the numbers of positive COVID-19 cases in Henry County and surrounding counties continue to increase in the last fourteen days; and

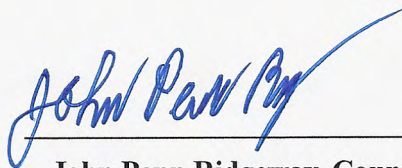
WHEREAS, after continued consultation with healthcare professionals with Henry County Medical Center and the Henry County Health Department; City of Paris Mayor and Paris City Manager; the Henry County Emergency Management Director; and the School Superintendents for Henry County Board of Education and the Paris Special School District, the County Mayor finds that there is a consensus that the wearing of cloth or other face coverings should be required in certain circumstances, and that such a requirement should continue for the health and wellbeing of the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY DELEGATED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 65; GOVERNOR LEE'S RECOGNITION OF A CONTINUING STATE OF EMERGENCY AND MAJOR DISASTER RELATED TO COVID-19; and Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 58-8-104 and 58-2-110, I, John Penn Ridgeway, Mayor of Henry County, Tennessee, hereby extend the declaration of a local State of Emergency in Henry County, Tennessee due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and further direct and order as follows:

1. **Wearing of Facemasks Required.** Subject to the exceptions herein, all persons in Henry County (including those within the corporate limits of municipalities located in Henry County) shall wear a cloth or other face covering over such person's nose and mouth while in public and publicly-accessible areas.

2. **Exceptions.** This requirement to wear masks does not apply:
- i. Within a residence or automobile, unless transporting others for hire;
 - ii. To any a child twelve (12) years of age or younger;
 - iii. To any person who has trouble breathing due to an underlying health condition or another bonafide medical or health-related reason for not wearing a face covering;
 - iv. To anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
 - v. While eating or drinking, or while seated in a restaurant;
 - vi. While outdoors, unless the person cannot substantially maintain appropriate 6-foot social distancing from others outside of the person's household;
 - vii. While working under conditions where appropriate social distancing from others outside of the person's household is substantially maintained;
 - viii. In situations in which wearing a face covering poses a safety or security risk;
 - ix. While in a house of worship unless required by that house of worship, but wearing a face covering in such locations is strongly encouraged;
 - x. While in a voting site for the purpose of voting or administering an election, but wearing a face covering in such locations is strongly encouraged;
 - xi. Persons working in areas not open to the public (such as offices or cubicles) where 6-foot social distancing can be observed, but wearing a face covering in such locations is strongly encouraged;
 - xii. While engaging in strenuous exercise and/or physical activity, provided, however, that such persons shall maintain 6-foot social distancing when not wearing a face covering; or
 - xiii. While within a facility owned or controlled by a governmental entity—in such facilities, the governmental entity which controls the facility shall determine the masking policy for that facility.
3. **Signage Required at Public Entrances.** Persons or entities in control of premises subject to the masking requirement of this Order shall post signage at public entrances informing of the requirement to wear a mask within the premises.
4. **Term.** This Order shall be extended and effective at 12:01a.m. on Saturday, December 19th, 2020, and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, December 26th, 2020, unless rescinded, continued, or renewed.

It is so ORDERED, Mayor John Penn Ridgeway, Henry County, Tennessee, this 18th day of December 2020.



John Penn Ridgeway, County Mayor