

April 27, 2020

## **Sullivan County COVID-19 Phase One Public Health Order Number Two**

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 help trend downward new COVID-19 cases, 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.

This Order is based on the approach “*Opening Up America Again*,” and the Governor’s *Tennessee Pledge* (<https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/economic-recovery/tennessee-pledge.html>.) This Order’s objectives are:

- Public Order Number Two replaces the *Public Health Order Number One* Sullivan County, TN.
- The public health order is meant to protect the health and safety of workers in critical industries and business.
- Protect the health and safety of those living/working in high-risk facilities (e.g., senior care facilities.)
- Protect employees and users of public services.
- Advises citizens regarding protocols for social distancing and face coverings and monitor conditions and immediately takes steps to limit and mitigate any rebounds or outbreaks.

### **Health System(s) in Sullivan County:**

The Healthcare System has assured the Sullivan County Regional Health Department that the Healthcare System status in Sullivan County and Tri-City region:

- Is able to treat all patients without “Crisis Care” standards.

- Has “Capacity” and “Ability” to quickly and independently supply sufficient “personal protective equipment” and “critical medical equipment” to handle dramatic surge in need.
- Has the ability to surge ICU capacity and adequate ventilators.
- Shall notify the State of Tennessee Commissioner of Health and Sullivan County Regional Health Department should any of these criteria change.
- Will provide updates in the Healthcare Resource Tracking System (HRTS).

### **Universal Guidelines: For All Businesses**

The State is recommending safeguarding protocols for all businesses in Tennessee, including those that are re-opening and those essential businesses that have remained open during the Safer at Home order. These safeguarding protocols are based on the recommendations of the CDC and OSHA. To support the Pledge for Tennessee, all employers and employees should take steps to reopen safely, help other industries be able to open more quickly, and help Tennessee remain healthy and open for business.

### **Individuals Should:**

Continue to adhere to State and local guidance as well as complementary CDC guidance, particularly to face coverings.

Continue to practice good hygiene:

Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.

Avoid touching face.

Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.

Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

Strongly consider using face covering while in public.

Use facial covering when in public.

Minimize non-essential travel and adhere to CDC guidelines regarding isolation after travel outside the Tri-City TN/VA region

ALL VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS should continue to “shelter in place”. Members of a household with vulnerable residents should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not practical, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from vulnerable residents.

All individuals, when in public places (e.g. parks, outdoor recreation areas, shopping areas), should maximize physical distance from others and consider using facial covering. Avoid socializing in groups of more than 10 people.

Individuals with any symptoms of acute respiratory illness or flu-like illness must self-isolate following “the *Tennessee Department of Health’s guidance on Release from Isolation and Quarantine* which states that an individual must be isolated for a minimum of 7 days after symptom onset and can be released after afebrile and feeling well (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 72 hours.

**Employers Should:**

Screen all employees reporting to work for COVID-19 symptoms with the following questions:

Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?

- Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
- Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
- Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
- Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
- Temperature screening employees:
  - Best practice: employers to take temperatures on site with a no-touch thermometer each day upon arrival at work.
  - Minimum: Temperatures can be taken before arriving. Normal temperature should not exceed 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.

Direct any employee who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms (i.e., answers yes to any of the screening questions or who is running a fever) to leave the premises immediately and seek medical care and/or COVID-19 testing, per CDC guidelines. Employers should maintain the confidentiality of employee health information.

Implement workplace cleaning and disinfection practices, according to CDC guidelines, with regular sanitization of high-touch surfaces at least every two hours

Mitigate exposure in the workplace by implementing social distancing guidelines and modify scheduling

Allow employees to work from home as much as possible

Plan for potential COVID-19 cases, and work with local health department officials when needed (e.g., monitor and trace COVID-19 cases, deep clean facilities)

Covered employers and employees should be aware of the provisions of the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which allows for paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons, such as for self-quarantining or seeking a medical diagnosis for COVID-19 symptoms

Update the Employee Illness Policy to include the symptoms of “COVID-19” or create a COVID-19 specific policy. All staff should sign the policy, and the policy should be posted for confirmation

Limit self-service options (customer samples, communal packaging, food/beverages, etc.)

Post extensive signage on health policies, including the following documents in the workplace to help educate building occupants on COVID-19 best practices:

CDC guidance to stop the spread of germs - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>

CDC guidance on COVID-19 symptoms - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>

**Employees:**

Stay home when feeling ill, when exposed to COVID-19 (e.g., positive household member case), or if diagnosed with a confirmed case of COVID-19. Employees who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 according to the CDC (e.g., due to age or underlying conditions) are encouraged to stay home

Increase hygiene practices—wash hands more frequently, avoid touching face, practice good respiratory etiquette

Wear a cloth face covering (not an N-95 or medical mask, which should be reserved for healthcare workers) while at work and in public to help protect against the spread of the virus

Practice recommended social distancing to the greatest extent possible -“Further is safer”

Abide by guidelines established by employer, which may include the use of gloves, social distancing practices in the workplace, and increased sanitation

**Special Situations:**

SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZED YOUTH ACTIVITIES (e.g. camps) that are currently closed remain closed.

VISITS TO SENIOR LIVING FACILITIES AND HOSPITALS shall be prohibited. Those who do interact with residents and patients must adhere to strict protocols regarding hygiene.

LARGE VENUES (e.g. sit-down dining, movie theaters, sporting venues, places of worship) can operate under strict physical distancing protocols while following guidance issued by State of Tennessee specific to type of business. See Tennessee Pledge.

Elective surgeries may resume, as clinically appropriate, following CDC protective guidelines, and specific guidance issued by the State of Tennessee.

Dental Offices/healthcare practices may open while maintaining social distancing and following CDC recommendations with appropriate PPE and specific guidance issued by the State of Tennessee.

Other non-essential businesses may open but adhere to strict social distancing guidelines, use precautionary measure, and follow guidance issued by the State of Tennessee specific to business type.

Personal contact business (i.e., barber shops, nail salons, cosmetology business, etc.) that cannot maintain social distancing measures may not reopen until appropriate safety guidelines have been developed by the Tennessee Department of Health.

This Order shall be effective at 12:01AM EDT on April 27th, 2020 and shall remain in effect. Sullivan County Regional Health Department will closely monitor the situation on a daily basis to determine the Order's duration and any changes that may be necessary.

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Andrew Stephen May, M.D., FAAFP

Date: 4-24-2020

Regional Medical Director/Health Officer

Sullivan County Regional Health Department