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HEALTH OFFICER



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

March 25, 2020

FORMAL ISSUANCE OF HEALTH DIRECTIVE

TO: Elected Leaders and Citizens of Shelby County, Tennessee,
 FROM: Bruce Randolph, MD, MPH, Shelby County Health Officer
 Alisa Haushalter, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, Shelby County Health Director
 RE: **Public Health Announcement on COVID-19 Response**

HEALTH DIRECTIVE

Pursuant to the authority vested in my office as Health Officer of Shelby County, Tennessee, and in collaboration with the Shelby County Health Director, I am formally issuing this Health Directive in order to protect the public health for all citizens and businesses in Shelby County, Tennessee. I am issuing this Health Directive to assure your compliance in preventing the spread of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Those citizens and owners of businesses described herein and currently within Shelby County, Tennessee serve as the class of people subject to this directive.

My review of all relevant cases, including but not necessarily limited to medical records, and my consultation with medical experts, reveals that the COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-coV-2 virus that can result in mild or severe symptoms, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and can lead to serious illness or death. On January 21, 2020, following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), the Tennessee Department of Health designated COVID-19 as a reportable disease in Tennessee.

As of March 24, 2020, the CDC reports there are 667 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state of Tennessee, 99 of which are confirmed cases in Shelby County. Consultation with experts and review of data provided to us by the State of Tennessee and the CDC show that transmission of the disease increases in locations where groups of people congregate.

Mission

To promote, protect and improve the health and environment of all Shelby County residents.

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Based on the clinical and epidemiological evidence, COVID-19 is a direct threat to the population of Shelby County, Tennessee.

By virtue of this directive, I am directing that 1) all citizens not serving in positions designated as essential services to shelter in place and 2) all owners and operators of businesses that do not provide essential services to the community to cooperate with health authorities' efforts to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. Only those individuals serving as essential personnel should be traveling to work. Essential personnel should be screened and not allowed to be in the workplace if they have a fever or other signs and symptoms of COVID-19. In conjunction with the limitations on public gatherings, all businesses not deemed to be life-sustaining are required to close their physical locations to the public. "Essential services" means services and/or businesses that the interruption of which would endanger the life, health, or personal safety of the whole or part of the population and shall include the following:

- Federal and state offices and services, including post offices and airports.
- Essential County and municipal government functions including law enforcement, transportation, and businesses that provide government programs and services
- Businesses that provide social services and other necessities of life for seniors, adults, children, or people with disabilities, substance abuse disorders, or mental illness. This includes residential facilities and shelters.
- Legally permitted food and beverage to include: 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.
- Legally permitted businesses that provide goods or services exclusively through curbside pick-up, drive-thru, shipment or delivery, with the limitation that there are no more than ten (10) patrons within the establishment at any one time and that those patrons are minimally six (6) feet apart. This shall include any business that did not previously provide goods or services in this manner, but obtains a legal permit and develops a procedure to provide its goods and services in this manner. This directive does not permit on-site dining.
- 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 related-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 businesses that directly support the insurance and financial services sector
- Legal and judicial services as prescribed by state and federal courts
- 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/mailings transportation and delivery businesses
- Transportation services including buses, taxis, and other private transportation providers

- 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
- Funeral and burial services
- Certain other business and services that the Shelby County Health Department, in coordination with the Shelby County Mayor's Office and Shelby County Attorney's Office, determine are essential for the continued safety and security of Shelby County.

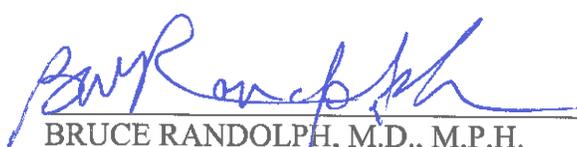
In addition, the following businesses may continue to operate only as recommended by CDC guidelines, but at the very least are required to limit the total number of patrons in the establishment to 10 at any one time. Because such services require close contact, patrons must not have a fever or any other symptoms of COVID-19, and these establishments must ensure additional steps are taken to enhance personal hygiene of employees and to provide extraordinary sanitization efforts within the facilities themselves:

- Daycare and childcare businesses 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.

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. 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.

As much as possible, citizens of Shelby County, Tennessee should remain at home, leaving for essential services only and avoid public spaces with the exception of outdoor spaces where there are limited people. 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. It is my belief that these are the least restrictive means by which to slow the transmission of COVID-19.

This Health Directive shall remain in force until such time as we have determined that the disease is no longer a threat to the public, but shall expire after thirty (30) days. Upon expiration of this Health Directive, as Health Officer and in consultation with medical experts, I have the authority to extend this directive for an additional thirty (30) days if such an extension is deemed to be in the best interest of public health.



BRUCE RANDOLPH, M.D., M.P.H.
SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER



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