



SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

**EXECUTIVE ORDER
OF
SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR LEE HARRIS
JUNE 30th, 2020**

**AN ORDER TO EXPAND PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS IMPRISONED AT
SHELBY COUNTY DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS FROM COVID-19**

WHEREAS, the worldwide impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) continues to reverberate locally, nationally, and internationally; and

WHEREAS, since March 4, 2020, when the first case of COVID-19 in the State of Tennessee was identified in Middle Tennessee, and days later the first confirmed case in Shelby County was confirmed on March 9, 2020, Tennessee has had almost 30,000 confirmed cases of the disease; and

WHEREAS, I have issued several Executive Orders and the Shelby County Health Department issued several Health Directives in order to respond to the COVID-19 emergency, and to limit the opportunity for “community spread” of the coronavirus as Shelby Countians go about their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, local, state, and federal health agency guidance has emphasized the importance of masks and facial coverings to inhibit the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, outbreaks have occurred in facilities where individuals are required to function or work in close proximity; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Corrections has already taken substantial steps to limit the possibility of a visitor, an employee, or a newly admitted prisoner arriving at a Division of Corrections facility and introducing the coronavirus into the population; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread in Shelby County, in Tennessee, and in nearby counties and states; and

WHEREAS, Shelby County Government takes seriously its responsibility to reduce risk of COVID-19 spread among those individuals housed in Division of Corrections facilities.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Lee Harris, by virtue of the authority granted to me by the Charter and Ordinances of Shelby County and by the laws of Tennessee, do declare, direct, and order the following through December 31, 2020, or at an accelerated date should the expanded protections no longer be necessary, for the protection of prisoners at Shelby County Government Division of Corrections facilities located at and near 1045 Mullins Station Road in Memphis, Tennessee.

1. The Division of Corrections shall cease in-person visitation and provide reasonable alternatives so that its prisoners may maintain contact and connection with family and community; and
2. The Division of Corrections shall not seek or accept new prisoners from any out-of-county prison or detention facility, unless such admission is required by state or federal law; and
3. The Division of Corrections shall institute a policy for remote or video visitation at least twice per week, for up to fifty minutes, and, furthermore, shall institute a policy for indigent prisoners to access remote or video visitation without cost; and
4. The Division of Corrections shall institute a policy to provide reasonable and routine access for remote, video, livestream, and/or streaming visitation for approved third-party programming providers, including educational, religious, personal growth, re-entry, or other mentoring programming (such as the program conducted by Hope Church); and



5. The Division of Corrections shall continue to evaluate all individuals who enter any of its facilities for symptoms and COVID-19 risk history before permitting entry, shall continue to take a body temperature reading, and shall refuse entry to any staff, vendor, or visitor with COVID-19 symptoms (such as an unreasonably high temperature) or COVID-19 risk history; and
6. The Division of Corrections shall review its policies related to prisoner access to COVID-19 testing. The Division of Corrections shall make any changes necessary to ensure that it provides testing for those individuals who exhibit a symptom consistent with COVID-19, or who have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Additionally, the policies shall provide reasonable testing opportunities for individuals who seek testing regardless of whether such individuals have exhibited symptoms; and
7. The Division of Corrections shall institute a policy that provides access to medical care in the event a prisoner exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19; and
8. The Division of Corrections shall institute a policy that requires isolation or quarantine housing while an individual receives care for COVID-19, or awaits results of a COVID-19 test; and
9. The Division of Corrections shall institute a policy that provides for weekly distribution of masks or facial coverings to both prisoners and staff. In addition, the policy shall provide a process to grant reasonable requests for replacement masks or facial coverings between the regular distributions. Masks and replacement masks shall be provided at no cost to the prisoner or staff member; and
10. The Division of Corrections shall institute a policy regarding the regular provision and distribution of handwashing supplies and cleaning supplies, in order to maintain personal hygiene and to provide for the regular cleaning of common areas and surfaces. The policy shall include the timing and process by which the distributions are made and the cleaning is conducted. In addition, the policy shall address off-schedule replenishment requests at no cost to any prisoner; and
11. In order to promote transparency of COVID-19 data, the Division of Corrections shall make prompt, regular disclosure of testing and test results to the Shelby County Health Department; and
12. The Shelby County Health Department shall continue to review these protections and advise the undersigned of any additional steps that can and should be taken to substantially reduce risk to individuals who are housed or work at the Division of Corrections; and
13. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the County of Shelby to be affixed this the 30th day of June, 2020.

**LEE HARRIS
MAYOR OF SHELBY COUNTY**