

Governor Bill Lee recently announced that he has extended the state of emergency, and various provisions of previous executive orders, through December 27, 2020. Health departments in Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Madison, Shelby and Sullivan counties will retain the discretion to implement local restrictions, including mask requirements and capacity limitations.

Governor Lee encouraged all Tennesseans to continue wearing masks, and confirmed that Executive Order 65 extends the authority of county mayors in 89 counties to impose mask mandates in their respective localities.

[Executive Order 65](#) extends certain, targeted provisions of previous executive orders through December 27, including directives that:

- Provide that persons with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms are required to stay at home, and that employers may not require or allow employees with COVID-19 to work;
- Provide a framework for safe visitation for nursing home and long-term-care facilities;
- Allow for the reopening of senior centers, while providing that capacity must be limited to the extent necessary to accommodate adequate social distancing;
- Provide that employers, businesses, and venues are expected to comply with the Tennessee Pledge for operating safely (the 6 counties with locally run county health departments continue to have existing statutory authority to issue additional directives on businesses/venues);
- Continue access to take-out alcohol sales to encourage carryout and delivery orders;
- Allow broad access to telehealth services;
- Increase opportunities for people to easily join the healthcare workforce;
- Facilitate increased testing and health care capacity;
- Extend deadlines and suspend certain in-person continuing education, gathering, or inspection requirements to avoid unnecessary person-to-person contact; and
- Increase opportunities to work remotely where appropriate.

In addition, Executive Order 65 extends provisions that allow government meetings to take place electronically, subject to certain transparency safeguards.

[Executive Order 66](#) extends a previous order that permits remote notarization and witnessing of documents through December 29, 2020.

We will continue to monitor the state government's legislative response to the pandemic, and provide updates accordingly.