

April 9, 2021

Dear Citizens of Sumner County,

The Executive Order to wear face coverings in public places will expire today, Friday, April 9, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. I am encouraged by the declining number of COVID cases in our community as well as the number of citizens who are choosing to become vaccinated.

A mask mandate has been in effect consistently since October 24, 2020 at a time when the County experienced a substantial increase in the number of active COVID-19 cases in our communities and our hospitals were nearing a breaking point. The primary reason for this mandate has always been to slow the spread of the virus, keep businesses open and to allow our hospitals the ability to maintain adequate capacity to treat those in need of care.

While the mask mandate is being lifted, I strongly encourage all citizens to follow the advice of medical experts by continuing to practice social distancing, washing your hands, and wearing face coverings in places where it is not possible to exercise social distancing.

All Sumner County Government buildings will continue to require the use of a mask when entering and conducting business. This excludes all school buildings. Please be aware that local businesses may require that you use a face covering when entering their business and I ask that we all respect their requirements. I would also ask that we each respect everyone's individual decision regarding face coverings.

I want to thank each of you for working together to keep our community healthy and to keep our local economy strong.

I pray that you and your family continue to stay safe and that this pandemic ends soon.

God Bless.

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