



Newsletter - May 1, 2020

Mayor Justin Hanson



***You may contact your
Alderman/Alderwoman by
clicking on the email links below.***

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Alderman Keith Phelps

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Alderman Danny Wallace

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1st Tuesdays - Public Works Committee
Jeff Morris - Chairman, Minnie Bommer, Danny Wallace

2nd Tuesdays - General Welfare and Public Relations Committee
Minnie Bommer - Chairwoman, Keith Phelps, C.H. Sullivan

3rd Tuesdays - Finance and Administration Committee
C.H. Sullivan - Chairman, All Aldermen/Alderwomen attend

4th Tuesdays - Public Safety Committee
Keith Phelps - Chairman, C.H. Sullivan, Johnetta Yarbrough

All regularly scheduled committee meetings are at 4:00 pm in the Lower Level Conference Room at Covington City Hall at 200 W. Washington St. All Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of each month at 5:30 pm in the Board Room on the 2nd floor at Covington City Hall. ALL are open to the public. Official meeting minutes and agendas can be found by visiting www.covingtontn.com.

Public Safety Committee Meeting – 4/28/20 – 4:00 p.m.

Present and via virtual meeting: Chairman Alderman Keith Phelps, Mayor Justin Hanson, Alderman Jeff Morris, Alderwoman Minnie Bommer, Alderman CH Sullivan, Alderwoman Johnetta Yarbrough, Alderman Danny Wallace, Chief Richard Griggs, Chief Larry Lindsey, Rebecca Ray, Tina Dunn, Echo Day

Covington Police Department – Chief Larry Lindsey

Disposition of Ordered vehicles

- Both vehicles purchased under 2019-2020 budget are now in service

Personnel

- The new property room specialist was terminated.
- Two newest members of the department will graduate Memphis Police Academy on May 8. No ceremony due to COVID-19
- K-9 Bella retired. New K-9 Arco will be assigned to Officer Perry. Both are attending training

Equipment

- Body Cameras are in and are being used
- Axon Tasers came in Friday, inventorying now
- Technology
 - o Laptops are delayed, expect delivery June 1st. This also delays CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) upgrade
 - o Reporting system will go down for 24 hours on the 30th to transfer info
- Waiting to get quote on new smart phones, FirstNet System instead of Verizon

Statistics

- Downward trends due to policies in place because of COVID-19

Move to accept Report, 2nd, roll call, accepted

Covington Fire Department – Chief Griggs

Community Events

- Human Trafficking Awareness, Boy-Scout Planning Luncheon, Community Support during pandemic
- Annual Inservice is complete
- Volunteer Hours 393 for months of February and March
- Storm Spotters (National Weather Service) April 2nd cancelled
- Drug Free Tipton BBQ Lunch, served 300 lunches
- Run Report for February 20-April 28th, 230 calls, 492 calls for 2020
- Intersection study Rialto/Hwy 51, TDOT Jason Moody, Chief Engineer, will be in Tipton Co. this week conducting a preliminary survey of this intersection
- Barry Brady Act – Extended the 7/1/20 deadline for cancer screenings to 10/1/20
- Chief Griggs elected to serve a Chairman of the EMS Advisory Board for DSCC
- No Care Report
- CFD was able to secure a boat from Arlington Fire Department

Continued on next page

Discussed Free Smoke Alarms

COVID-19 Update

- Inspector Jenkins is making sure restaurants are complying with safety procedures
- Many restaurant dining rooms are remaining closed Will be checking occupancy loads for other businesses starting Wednesday
- Alderman Phelps asked about if there is a standard occupancy per square feet. Chief Griggs stated that there is a formula used.
- Alderman Phelps suggested that businesses post occupancy level on the door

Volunteer Recruitment

- We have backed off on recruitment at this time

USDA Grant Update

- Community Facilities Grant, will use to purchase equipment

Safer Grant

- Personnel Grant

Grants Portal

- We are now registered

Motion to approve report, 2nd, roll call, approved

There being no further business, meeting is adjourned

Official meeting minutes and agendas can be found by visiting www.covingtontn.com.



if you
SEE
something
SAY
something™

**REPORT SUSPICIOUS
ACTIVITY** to Covington Police

Call 901-475-1261 or 901-475-4300

In an emergency dial 9-1-1



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A Structure Fire
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On Friday, May 1st Governor Bill Lee's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives has released guidance for our faith based communities on gathering together in houses of worship.



Guidance for Gathering Together in Houses of Worship

Tennessee is stronger because of our citizens and communities of faith. Governor Lee is thankful to the houses of worship and faith communities that have played a large part in Tennessee's success to slow the spread of COVID-19 through social distancing and other means of worshipping together without physically gathering.

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I of the Tennessee Constitution protect the right of Tennesseans to worship and freely exercise their religion in every aspect of their lives according to the dictates of their own consciences. Additionally, the Tennessee Religious Freedom Restoration Act (T.C.A. § 4-1-407) provides additional protections for religious liberty. Thus, state and local governments must ensure these core constitutional and statutory rights are protected.

This resource is an aggregation of suggested protocols from various faith communities across Tennessee. Not all suggestions will be appropriate for each faith community. These suggestions are included as a courtesy for your convenience. These suggestions are not, and should not be construed as, mandates or requirements by the State of Tennessee, the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, or any other entity of federal, state, or local government.

Moving forward, people should continue to exercise caution while COVID-19 remains present in Tennessee. To minister to vulnerable populations while also protecting those populations and continuing our state's progress to contain COVID-19, faith communities are strongly encouraged to continue offering online services and other creative methods of worship and ministry. Faith communities should conduct as many activities as possible remotely and should follow the recommendations in this guidance when deciding to begin gathering in person once again.

Decisions about when to resume in-person gatherings are serious and should be made by each house of worship and its leadership based on the unique needs of its faith community, and in consideration of preserving and protecting health and safety to the greatest extent practicable. Governor Lee's executive orders have been clear that religious services are essential, rather than social gatherings. Caring for the elderly, disabled, and immunocompromised is incredibly important to faith communities, and gatherings that include these vulnerable populations uniquely put them at risk. As such, faith leaders should evaluate the specifics of their congregation, community, and facility when determining when and how to gather in person. Due to the potential high risks of potential widespread transmission of COVID-19 in houses of worship, faith communities are encouraged to continue alternative worship options.



A resource for houses of worship planning to gather in-person

Leadership

Leading well through this time of uncertainty is essential; involve your leadership team to creatively and safely navigate this time of transition. There will naturally be new ministry opportunities to develop, and some prior ministry programs may change drastically.

1. Communicate to your congregation the steps you are taking to maintain clean and safe conditions on campus and to deliver relevant ministries safely.
2. Extend the good habits your community has embraced since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as pastoral care through small groups and digital communication and look for opportunities to adopt additional best practices.
3. Evaluate which practices are inappropriate to continue while COVID-19 remains a threat.
4. Require a COVID-19 symptom and temperature check on all staff and volunteers.
 - A. Screen all staff and volunteers for COVID-19 symptoms before services with the following questions:
 - o Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
 - o Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
 - o Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
 - o Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
 - o Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
 - B. Temperature screening for staff and volunteers before services:
 - o Best practice: employers to take temperatures on site with a no-touch thermometer each day upon arrival at work.
 - o Minimum: Temperatures can be taken before arriving. Normal temperature should not exceed 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - C. Direct any staff member or volunteer 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 this health information.
5. 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)

Prepare Your House of Worship

Prepare your facility for in-person worship and gathering. Walk your campus with fresh eyes regarding upkeep and cleanliness. Invite medical professionals to help develop best practices related to the health of your congregation.

Cleaning/Sanitizing

Implement new protocols to reduce the spread of the virus.

1. Mitigate exposure by implementing social distancing guidelines – Stay at least 6 feet from other people, don't hug or shake hands, and follow other CDC guidelines (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>).
2. Implement cleaning and disinfection practices, according to CDC guidelines (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>).
3. Sanitize shared resources after each use, and sanitize all high-traffic/high-touch areas (restrooms, doorknobs, counters, microphones, seats, etc.)
4. Use a clearly designated entrance and a separate clearly designated exit to maintain social distancing. Put up signs so it's clear to everyone.

When faith leaders determine it is time to begin gathering in person again, faith communities should recognize that meeting in person should be different from meeting in person before the COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely that certain changes to in-person gatherings should remain in place until a vaccine for COVID-19 is available. Governor Lee hopes that all Tennesseans will continue to make responsible choices to protect themselves and their neighbors from COVID-19.

Here are some guidelines for your faith community as you determine when and how to offer in-person gatherings:

1. Evaluate how you can provide for your congregation spiritually and emotionally, while continuing to protect vulnerable populations and reduce the spread of COVID-19.
2. Wear face coverings. Social distance by staying 6 feet away from others. Consult the CDC guidelines and guidance from your local health officials to determine the risks of gathering in person. This should include thinking about the percentage of your community classified as vulnerable, how conducive your facility is to allowing social distancing, the size of your community, and more.
3. A phased approach to resuming in-person gatherings is recommended. Vulnerable populations (everyone 65 years and older, people with disabilities, people with serious respiratory or cardiovascular conditions, people who are immunocompromised, and others) and children's activities/nursery programs should not gather in person until a later time. Consider solutions to minimize close personal contact that may be part of your services, such as handshakes or sharing food and drink.
4. As the phased approach begins, limit the size of attendance in your sanctuary and other confined spaces to create seating arrangements that provide at least 6-foot distancing between household units. It is recommended not to exceed 50% of maximum capacity of the room and should enable full compliance with CDC recommendations for social distancing and hygiene. Over time, as Tennessee continues to see the successful containment of COVID-19, it will be appropriate to gradually increase capacity.
5. Encourage members of your community to stay at home if they are symptomatic, have a fever, have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, or have traveled internationally or to a domestic hot spot in the past two weeks.
6. If you learn that a member of your congregation has tested positive for COVID-19, consult CDC guidelines and local health department recommendations to determine whether you should immediately cease in-person gatherings, close for additional cleaning, or otherwise change your protocols.
7. Stay informed of updated safety protocols and recommendations as the COVID-19 situation in your community develops.

Communicate with members of your faith community (flyers, e-mail, social media) about steps you're taking to prepare the house of worship for their arrival and ways the in-person gathering will be different. Remind them of social distancing protocols. Be mindful of the diverse health needs of other members. **Remind people who are sick or have been exposed to not attend in-person gatherings and participate virtually instead.**

Logistics

Modify the logistics of in-person gatherings to promote social distancing.

1. We recommend returning to in-person gatherings in phases for your in-person ministries. Communicate with vulnerable populations and families requiring child care during the worship service to encourage them to delay their return for several weeks. Keep an online meeting option for those who are uncomfortable or unable to attend your service in person for any reason.
2. Offer more services than you typically do to allow greater social distancing and accommodate lower capacity limits, while considering spacing services out to allow for cleaning and social distancing.
3. Ensure seating is spaced out at least six feet apart, with groups of seats together to allow household units to sit together. Consider broadcasting the service to other rooms in the facility to allow proper social distancing.
4. Move and limit unnecessary physical objects in order to reduce potential transmission of the virus.
5. Develop a fun, no-contact way to greet each other. Rely on staff or other ministers to welcome congregants and set the tone for new behaviors.
6. Consider creating new routes or methods of entrance and exit, avoiding congregating in highly populated areas, and dismissing in an orderly way to ensure proper social distancing.

Worship Programming

1. Modify distribution protocols if your tradition involves shared food or drink (e.g. communion). Avoid passing a plate or cup.
2. Temporarily replace a choir with soloists or small ensembles of individuals at least 6 feet apart.
3. Avoid sharing and passing microphones.
4. Create other ways to allow people to give without passing collection plates (e.g. stations, encouraging online giving).
5. Consider dividing smaller gatherings, like Sunday School or Sabbath School classes, into smaller groups to maintain the social distancing standards.

Amenities

1. Post signs to remind people to wash their hands and practice social distancing (e.g. restrooms).
2. Make sure there is soap and/or hand sanitizer to make it easy for people to access and use often.
3. Supply cloth face coverings (N-95 masks and surgical masks should be reserved for medical providers). Face coverings should not be returned or used by multiple people.
4. Coffee stations should be closed, and group meals are strongly discouraged.

Other Resources

For Guidance on Vulnerable Populations, visit here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

For Guidance on Cleaning and Disinfecting Facilities, visit here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

For Guidance on Wearing Face Coverings, visit here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/div-cloth-face-coverings.html>



Please see the document below that was signed and released by Gov. Bill Lee on Wednesday, April 29th. The prohibition of non-emergency dental services is being extended to Wednesday, May 6, to allow more time for the Tennessee Dental Association, the Tennessee Dental Hygienists' Association, and the Tennessee Board of Dentistry to continue work on guidance for safe reopening and practice.



STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 31

AN ORDER TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 BY LIMITING NON-EMERGENCY DENTAL PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, in response to the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Tennessee, I have issued numerous Executive Orders to reduce unnecessary person-to-person interactions and to preserve the ability of Tennessee's healthcare system to respond to the rapidly increasing volume of COVID-19 patients; and

WHEREAS, since declaring a state of emergency, I issued Executive Order Nos. 18 and 25 limiting non-emergency and non-essential dental and medical procedures in order to preserve personal protective equipment and to maintain adequate hospital bed capacity for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, as well as to reduce community spread by limiting unnecessary person-to-person interactions; and

WHEREAS, despite an improvement in conditions, the spread of COVID-19 remains a serious threat, and an essential element of allowing many Tennesseans to return to work is ensuring that Tennessee's healthcare system maintains the ability to treat COVID-19 patients and prevent the community spread of COVID-19, which requires measures to preserve adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and measures to limit unnecessary person-to-person interactions; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, the American Dental Association (ADA) presented its Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit containing guidance for the short-term management of dental practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, which aligns with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) that dental service providers should use the highest level of personal protective equipment available when treating patients; and

WHEREAS, in light of only recent recommendations by the ADA and the CDC regarding safe dental practice, the Tennessee Board of Dentistry, the Tennessee Dental Association, and the Tennessee Dental Hygienists' Association are still working to develop appropriate guidelines to resume non-emergency dental practices safely in Tennessee.



NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and other applicable law, in light of the continuing state of emergency to facilitate the response to COVID-19, do hereby order the following statewide:

1. Dental service providers in the State of Tennessee, including but not limited to dentists, pediatric dentists, orthodontists, oral surgeons, periodontists, prosthodontists, and endodontists, shall not perform any non-emergency dental or oral procedures. Non-emergency dental or oral procedures include hygiene visits, cosmetic procedures, and other elective procedures. Emergency procedures for patients with acute dental or oral needs may still be performed, including treatment for pain, swelling, trauma, or an abscess.
2. In order to conserve personal protective equipment, dental service providers and facilities in Tennessee must limit attendance to essential personnel in the rooms where surgeries and invasive procedures are being performed.
3. Any state or local law, order, rule, or regulation that would limit the application of this Order is hereby suspended.
4. This Order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m., Central Daylight Time, on April 30, 2020, and shall remain in effect until 12:01 a.m., Central Daylight Time, on May 6, 2020, at which time the suspension of any state laws and rules and the other provisions of this Order shall cease and be of no further force or effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 29th day of April, 2020.

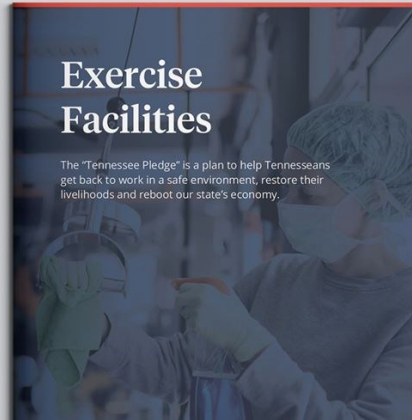

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE



Access Guidelines for Exercise Facilities



On Tuesday, April 28th Gov. Bill Lee announced that gyms and fitness facilities will be allowed to reopen May 1. The announcement also asked that pools remain closed so unfortunately, we will not be reopening the Covington Aquatic Center at this time. Also, basketball courts, racquetball courts, and other park areas where large crowds may gather are to remain closed. All youth and adult sports leagues are also to remain closed and inactive. We will be reopening the Covington Sportsplex at some point the week of May 4th. We have ordered digital thermometers and are waiting on them to arrive before we open our doors to the public. We will reopen under normal business hours using very strict guidelines outlined by the Governor's office.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2020

CONTACT: Gillum Ferguson
gillum.ferguson@tn.gov
615-253-4516

Economic Recovery Group Releases Reopening Guidance for Gyms

Nashville, Tenn. -- Today, Tennessee's Economic Recovery Group announced guidance for gyms and exercise facilities on how to reopen safely. Gyms will be allowed to reopen in 89 of the state's 95 counties beginning Friday, May 1. The counties excluded are those with locally-run health departments: Shelby, Madison, Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, and Sullivan.

"Exercise is incredibly important for the physical and mental health of our population, and we want Tennesseans to have access to safe environments where they can exercise as appropriate," said Tennessee Governor Bill Lee. "These guidelines outline best practices in keeping with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and health experts for gyms to reopen in a way that will keep their employees and customers safe."

In addition to strict adherence to CDC guidelines, the State recommends gyms, fitness/exercise facilities, or substantially similar facilities and activities put into place an assortment of measures to protect consumers and employees. The full guidelines are posted online [here](#) and include:

Business Process Adaptations

- Restrict facility access to staffed hours only (i.e., any unmanned facilities must be manned) and limit facility occupancy to 50 percent of capacity as dictated by fire code (as such capacity is adjusted in consideration of closed areas of the facility pursuant to these guidelines);
- Mitigate exposure in the workplace by implementing social distancing guidelines and modify scheduling;
- Staff to conduct regular (i.e., every 2 hours) disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, equipment and common areas of the facility using disinfectant cleaning supplies according to [CDC guidelines](#);
- Close showers, locker rooms, and lockers until further notice. Ask customers to instead use small gym bags to store personal belongings; remind customers to appropriately monitor or secure such personal belongings or provide a secure area monitored by staff;
- Close all swimming pools, hot tubs, saunas and other recreational water or spa facilities;
- Close all basketball courts, racquetball courts, and other places where formal and informal group or team sports may occur;
- Any youth or adult team leagues or sports should remain closed;
- Only allow group fitness classes if classes can be completed in accordance with social distancing recommendations (including but not limited to: less than 50% capacity and with more than 6 feet of distance maintained between participants at all times; no shared equipment during the class; sufficiently adjusted class schedules to allow for deep cleaning between classes; martial arts and other contact activities should be completed without any person-to-person contact);
- Encourage all employees and customers to wear PPE where applicable, and recommend that customers wear a face covering (not N-95 or medical masks, which should be reserved for healthcare workers);
- Adjust equipment layout and close or restrict access to equipment to maintain at least six feet of distance between equipment;
- Temporarily close water fountains, common areas, break rooms, check-in counters, where customers or employees may congregate. Encourage users to provide their own water;

- No self-service options (coffee bars, smoothie stations and other forms of communal food in facilities). Food retail should follow restaurant guidelines;
- Ensure that staffing of facilities is sufficient to enable enhanced sanitization and cleaning measures;

Consumer Protection

- Screen customers for illness upon entry to the gym:
 - Best practice: Temperature checks for every customer. Persons with temperatures above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit should not be permitted on premise;
 - Minimum: Question customers regarding COVID-19 symptoms
 - 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?
- Keep doors and windows open where possible to improve ventilation;
- Post signs encouraging social distancing (visible to customers);
- Require that customers wash or sanitize their hands upon entering and leaving the facility;
- Require customers to clean equipment they come in contact with using disinfecting wipes before and after each use;
- Encourage customers to use only one piece of equipment at a time (i.e., no circuits or "super setting") so that machines are cleaned after use;
- Consider limiting workout length to avoid unnecessary exposure, decrease congestion, and allow for additional sanitization;
- Recommend that persons more vulnerable or at-risk for COVID-19 as identified by the [CDC](#)—including those who are over the age of 65 or those who have chronic medical conditions—take extra precaution or refrain from use of the facility during Phase 1 of re-opening.

Employee Protection

- Allow employees to work from home as much as possible;
- Screen all employees reporting to work for COVID-19 symptoms;
- Staff should wear face coverings (not N-95 or medical masks, which should be reserved for healthcare workers) and other personal protection items as recommended by the CDC;
- Provide training on personal protective equipment based on CDC guidelines;
- Provide a sanitizing station such as a wash basin with soap and/or bottle of hand sanitizer;
- Practice recommended social distancing to the greatest extent possible.


View the full guidance [here](#).

The Economic Recovery Group (ERG), composed of 30 leaders from the public and private sector, is crafting guidance to assist businesses in a safe reopening. The industry representatives participating in the ERG collectively represent over 140,000 Tennessee businesses that employ over 2.5M Tennesseans. More information about ERG is available [here](#).

###



On Friday, April 24th Gov. Bill Lee issued his guidelines for reopening restaurants on 4/27 and retail establishments on 4/29. We are waiting further guidance regarding churches and medical procedures. Your patience and understanding are appreciated as we all move through this together! For a complete look at the State of Tennessee's plan to reopen our economy, click [HERE](#).

Guidelines for Opening Tennessee Businesses 

Restaurant Guidelines

It is vitally important to both the state's economy and the food supply chain that restaurants are allowed to begin some operations and put employees back to work. The State of Tennessee recommends the following best practices for restaurants at this time.


Protecting Employees

- Wear face coverings and gloves
- Report any symptoms of illness to supervisor
- Follow daily sanitation protocols

Protecting Customers

- Limit occupancy to 50% of seating capacity
- Space tables 6 feet apart
- Limit seating to 6 per table
- Use social distancing standards in waiting areas
- Keep bar areas closed
- No live music
- Screen customers with basic questions about COVID-19 symptoms

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Guidelines for Opening Tennessee Businesses 


Restaurant Guidelines

Restaurant owners and managers should take additional steps to maintain heightened sanitation standards during this time particularly as it pertains to high-touch surfaces used by multiple customers and employees.

Business Operations

- Sanitize all front-of-house contact surfaces every two hours
- Use disposable menus or sanitize menus between each use
- Use rolled silverware/napkins stored in sealed bins
- Sanitize chairs and all tabletop items after each table turn
- Do not offer self-serve buffets, shared condiments, or beverage station re-use
- Provide ServSafe COVID-19 training for all food handlers

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Guidelines for Opening Tennessee Businesses 

Retail Guidelines

Tennessee retailers are a trusted and important source of goods for our residents as well as a major employer base. The State of Tennessee recommends the following best practices for retail stores at this time.


Protecting Employees

- Wear dedicated cloth face coverings, gloves, and other personal protection items as recommended by the CDC
- Report any symptoms of illness to supervisor
- Provide training on personal protective equipment based on CDC guidelines
- Sanitize hands with soap and/or hand sanitizer
- Stagger shifts, breaks, and meals to maintain social distancing

Protecting Customers

- Limit customer occupancy to 50% of store capacity
- Customers should wear face coverings inside stores
- Consider shopping hours for the elderly, medically vulnerable, and health care workers
- Establish one-way aisles and traffic patterns for social distancing
- Increase curbside, pickup, and delivery service options
- Prompt customers regarding the importance of social distancing

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Guidelines for Opening Tennessee Businesses 

Retail Guidelines

Business Operations

- Establish enhanced cleaning protocols that follow CDC guidelines
- Designate separate entrances and exits
- Use plastic shields or barriers at checkout between the customer and clerk
- Adjust store hours to allow time for enhanced cleaning
- Prohibit the use of reusable bags
- Suspend "self-service" food stations and dining areas
- Suspend the sampling of food and personal hygiene products
- Management-level employees should monitor compliance
- Add social distancing "reminder" signage and announcements

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If you have been tested for COVID-19, follow the steps below to monitor your health and avoid spreading the disease to others:

Communicate with Public Health

- Public health will contact you with your results as soon as possible. It may be a week or longer, depending on demand.

Monitor Your Health

- ALL patients should **isolate while awaiting results** (regardless of symptoms).
- Stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home to the extent possible. Use a separate bathroom, if available. Household members can consider staying in a separate location, if available, to decrease their risk of exposure.
- Where possible, ask others such as friends or family, to get food or necessities for you.
- Get plenty of rest, stay hydrated and, if needed, take medication to reduce your fever.
- If your symptoms get worse and you need to seek healthcare, call ahead and tell the provider that you have been tested for COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Practice Healthy Habits

- Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for ≥ 20 seconds, or use alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces regularly, including your phone.

Learn More

- Online: www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov

Regardless of Symptoms, Free COVID-19 Testing is Available to Tennesseans

DO YOUR PART. STAY APART.



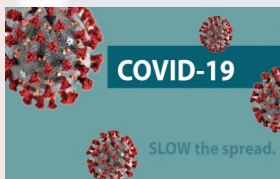
Due to the concerns related to the Coronavirus and our efforts to keep everyone safe, the 2020 BBQ Festival has been cancelled. Mark your calendars for June 3, 4, and 5, 2021!



Tipton County Health Department has a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site on Mueller Brass Road in Covington. The National Guard has been deployed to assist with testing and supplies. The testing site will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturdays 9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m. Anyone can drive-thru and be tested regardless of whether or not they are exhibiting any symptoms.



Photo by The Leader



In order to further protect our employees and our community, effective immediately, all City buildings will be closed to the public until further notice. Also keep in mind the following:

- All payments (utility bills, citations, fire fees, etc.) will be accepted through our two drive-through lanes, not in the lobby at City Hall.
- Many payments can be made via our website at www.covingtontn.com or by calling 844-876-2911.
- Business that requires face-to-face visits will be done by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call 901-476-9613.
- Job applications and many other forms can be obtained from our website at www.covingtontn.com

We want you to know that we are still here to serve you! Avoid crowded spaces, wash your hands, and if you are not feeling well, please stay home. We expect the number of confirmed cases to rise, but by putting these things in place, hopefully we can slow the spread.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Baptist Hospital - Tipton
Tipton County Health Department
Tennessee Department of Health

901-476-2621
901-476-0235
<https://www.tn.gov/health.html>

TN

Department of
**Labor & Workforce
Development**

Tennessee Unemployment Insurance

This video may help you understand the process:

How to Complete Certifications on Jobs4TN



In an effort to keep our employees safe, please do not drop fire fees off at the Covington Fire Department. Please use the following options:

By Mail: 101 Tennessee Ave., Covington, TN 38019

Online: Covingtontn.com

Or visit the drive-thru at City Hall, 200 W. Washington Ave.

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This course provides knowledge of basic medical phrases to communicate with your patients and their family members.

Speed Spanish

Converse in Spanish in just a few weeks. You will learn six easy recipes for gluing Spanish words together to form sentences. In no time at all, you will be able to go into any Spanish-speaking situation and converse in Spanish. ¡Qué Bueno!

Beginning Conversational French

Master the basics of conversational French. This course will provide you with the proper pronunciation of French words that you will use in future travels!

For more information visit: <https://www.ed2go.com/dscc/>

Learn from the comfort of your home with
DSCC's Ed2Go Courses



DSCC
DYERSBURG STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Division of Workforce Development
and Continuing Education

CBCS Certified Medical Administrative Assistant with Medical Billing and Coding

This comprehensive program will provide the core foundation of medical vocabulary, to help understand doctor's notes and medical record contents. This course will teach essential medical office management skills.

Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)

In this course, you will learn medical terminology, medical law and ethics, HIPAA rules, scheduling systems, pathophysiology, pharmacology, nutrition, phlebotomy theory, injections, routine treatment and laboratory duties, and more. Upon completion of this course you will be able to take the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) national certification exam offered by National Healthcareer Association (NHA).

CPC Medical Billing and Coding

Whether you're just starting out or transitioning into a different field, this course will help you enter the medical billing and coding field. More than 850,000 practicing physicians in the United States rely on medical billers and coders to receive payment for their services and the demand is only growing.

For more information visit: <https://www.ed2go.com/dscc/>

Workforce Development at DSCC



DSCC
DYERSBURG STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Division of Workforce Development
and Continuing Education

Professional Bookkeeping with Quickbooks 2019

QuickBooks is the most commonly used financial software tool for small business bookkeeping. If you're a small business owner who wants to take control of your company's finances, this course is for you!

Grant Writing

A to Z Grant Writing is an invigorating and informative course that will teach you how to raise needed funds. This course speaks mainly to nonprofit organizations, schools, religious institutions, and municipalities seeking grants from foundation, corporate, government, and individual donors. It's also an excellent primer for individuals wishing to become grant writing consultants or community grant writing volunteers.

Intermediate Microsoft Excel 2016

Harness the power of Excel and become a master user of this powerful program. This hands-on course will provide skills using charts, graphs, Pivot Tables, Slicers, Sparklines, AutoFilter, macros, and other advanced Microsoft Excel 2016 functions.

For more information visit: <https://www.ed2go.com/dscc/>

I'm challenging you to
complete the
2020 Census
today.

#shapeyourfuture



TENNESSEE COLLEGE
OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY
COVINGTON

Practical Nursing 2020

September 12-month Day Program
Begins September 1, 2020.
Paperwork Deadline July 7, 2020

October 18-month Evening/Weekend Program
Begins October 26, 2020
Paperwork Deadline August 5, 2020



For additional information, visit our website

<https://tcatcovington.edu/programs/practical-nursing-day-program.com>
or email rarnold@tcatcovington.edu.

Lost a job & health insurance? Lost TennCare?



The Tennessee Health Care Campaign (THCC) can provide assistance to anyone that has **lost their health insurance or TennCare** due to the coronavirus.

TennCare is available to low-income families with children under the age of 19.

The Affordable Care Act (**Obamacare**) is an option for families and individuals who do not qualify for Medicaid (**TennCare**).

Feel free to give our Insure Tennessee Line **844-644-5443**, to speak with someone about your eligibility for either **TennCare** or **Obamacare**.

Or you can check out our website at www.insure-tennessee.org.

844-644-5443



HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY



Republic Services® drivers and staff will be celebrating Memorial Day with their families; therefore, the following holiday schedule will be in effect for all residential routes:

Service Day:

Monday, May 25th	—————▶	Service day will be on Tuesday the 26th
Tuesday, May 26th	—————▶	Service day will be on Wednesday the 27th
Wednesday, May 27th	—————▶	Service day will be on Thursday the 28th
Thursday, May 28th	—————▶	Service day will be on Friday the 29th
Friday, May 29th	—————▶	Service day will be on Saturday the 30th



Have a Safe and Happy Memorial Day!



We'll handle it from here.®

DIGITAL AGRONOMY

Location: Covington
Campus | 1600 Hwy 51 S
Covington, TN 38019

NEW PROGRAM COMING FALL 2020



**Committed to
Training
Excellence for
Over 50 Years**

**Comprehensive
Training Program**

****Call us at
(901) 475-2526
to get your
name put on
the interest list****

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Digital Agronomy program will prepare individuals for the future of Ag technology. Students will gain a foundation in both conventional and regenerative agricultural practices, with a focus on 21st century technology. Instructional methods include classroom lecture, videos, audio and video conferencing, virtual and live work projects on actual farms.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Plant & Soil Science
- GIS Mapping
- Field Scouting
- Landscaping & Turf Management
- Drone Piloting
- Greenhouse & Nursery Management

COMPLETION AWARDS

- Digital Agronomy Helper CERTIFICATE (432 hrs)
- Digital Agronomy Junior Assist. CERTIFICATE (864 hrs)
- FAA Drone Pilot License CERTIFICATE (864 hrs)
- Digital Agronomy Assistant DIPLOMA (1296 hrs)



**TENNESSEE COLLEGE
OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY**
COVINGTON

www.tcatcovington.edu

901-475-2526

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Covington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex and disability. See <https://www.tcatcovington.edu/about/non-discrimination-statement>.



Protecting Your Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic



If you're feeling anxious, overwhelmed, fearful, or depressed during this time, please know this: **You are not alone. It's OK to not feel OK.** It's important that you reach out and stay connected to relatives, coworkers, neighbors, and others. Receiving and sharing patience, understanding, and grace is critical as we all battle against the COVID-19 Pandemic.

If feelings of depression, isolation, and hopelessness are too much to bear, **there is help and there is hope. Life is precious, purposeful, and powerful.** The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services has a statewide network of community behavioral health partners who are compassionate and capable of helping, even in the current circumstances. Please reach out if you need to.

If you are experiencing a mental health emergency or thinking of taking your own life, please call or text Tennessee's Statewide Crisis Line.

Call 800-274-7471 or Text "TN" to 741-741

If you are not experiencing a mental health emergency, but you need a connection to mental health treatment, please reach out:

- If you are uninsured and unable to pay, the state of Tennessee offers the Behavioral Health Safety Net. Find a provider in your area by visiting [TN.gov/behavioral-health/bhsn](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/bhsn) or by calling **800-560-5767**
- If you are a TennCare member, call the number for your managed care organization on your insurance card.
- If you have insurance, call the number on the back of your insurance card.

If the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened or revealed a problem with alcohol consumption or drug use, Tennessee has a network of substance abuse providers and services available for people who need treatment but have no means to pay. Our state also has dozens of people in recovery from substance abuse who are professionals at helping others get into treatment and get into recovery. If you need a referral to addiction treatment services or if you need help maintaining your recovery from substance use disorder, please **call or text the Tennessee REDLINE: 800-889-9789.**

Healthy Ways to Manage Stress

- Listen to relaxing music, draw or paint.
- Create routines with exercise.
- Watch your favorite comedy show or movie.
- Read the book you've been putting off, download educational podcasts, catch up on recorded shows on your DVR or pull out board games for family fun.
- Reconnect with yourself and loved ones.
- Spend time with people who matter most in your life — and that includes you!



 **BAPTIST**

baptistonline.org/coronavirus

{SUICIDE}

IS 100% PREVENTABLE

Reach out for **HELP.**

Reach out for **HOPE.**

Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network



CRISIS TEXT LINE |

Text "TN" to 741 741



"Saving Lives in Tennessee"

www.tspn.org

COVID-19 Essential Employee Child Care

To help Tennesseans move forward during the COVID-19 emergency, DHS is increasing access to child care at no cost for Tennessee workers who are providing “essential businesses and services.”

This child care is available through payment assistance with licensed child care agencies and a partnership with Tennessee YMCAs and Boys & Girls Clubs.



- **How do I know if I'm an essential worker who is eligible for these supports?**
For purposes of the child care payment assistance program, essential workers are: Employees of a healthcare entity, Law Enforcement, First Responders (EMS, Fire Departments), Corrections Officers, Military, Activated National Guard, Human and Social Services Workers, Postal Workers, Transportation, Restaurant and Grocery Workers. Parents seeking care at a YMCA or Boys & Girls Club temporary location should contact the facility in order to verify eligibility and to register their child.
- **Do parents of children of all age groups qualify?**
Families with children under the age of 13 are eligible for this program. Families with children older than 13 that are: **a)** under court supervision or **b)** mentally or physically incapable of self-service also qualify for this program.
- **Are there income restrictions for these programs?**
These programs do not have income restrictions.
- **How do I apply to receive COVID-19 Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance?**
Parents who meet the definition of essential worker as listed above can apply online at: [Tdhs.service-now.com](https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/covid-19.html)
- **How do I apply to take my child to a YMCA or Boys & Girls Club temporary care location?**
Essential employees with school-aged children who need care will be able to register at YMCA and Boys & Girls Club locations and access care at no charge, during the COVID-19 state of emergency. As they are established, you will be able to see a listing of temporary care locations here <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/humanservices/covid-19.html>.
- **How long will the application take to process?**
Typically, an application for child care payment assistance will be processed within about a week. Upon receipt of the application, a DHS team member will contact you within 2 business days if the verifications needed are not attached and request necessary verifications. If an application is received with all verifications, the eligibility process will be completed within 3 business days. *Please note: to protect the health of customers and staff, DHS offices are not open to “foot-traffic” during the COVID-19 emergency, but staff are available by phone.*
- **How will payments be distributed?**
After an essential employee enrolls in the child care payment assistance program, DHS will make arrangements to pay for child care at the DHS licensed program where the child is served. A list of licensed child care providers with capacity to enroll children is available at: <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/covid-19/child-care-services-and-covid-19.html>.
- **How long will this program be available?**
Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance will be valid through June 15, 2020.

Visit our website at www.tn.gov/humanservices



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 23, 2020

Contact: Amy Finch, Director of Public Information, 731-286-3347

Dyersburg State Community College

Dyersburg State to Deliver all May and Summer Courses via Distance Learning Mode

Dyersburg, Tennessee – Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC) has announced that all May session and summer semester courses will be delivered through a distance learning mode. The decision was based out of continued concern for its college community amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Students will meet with their classes through Zoom teleconferencing during the designated class times. DSCC online and TN eCampus classes will be offered as normal.

Advising and registration for May session and summer and fall semesters is taking place now for current and prospective students. Students are encouraged to register for classes early for best class selection. Current students can make an online advising appointment through their Navigate app (www.dscc.edu/navigate) or through the DSCC website. Prospective students can make an appointment by going to the DSCC website and clicking on "Future Students," and "Make an Appointment."

Current Tennessee Promise students can use Promise funding for summer 2020 enrollment and do not need to take a minimum of 12 hours as has been required in the past. If current Tennessee Promise students use this funding for summer semester, it will count as one of the five semesters allowed for the scholarship. These students are encouraged to contact their academic advisor to register for summer 2020 classes.

For more information on DSCC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit dscc.edu/coronavirus.

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Dyersburg State Community College

Dyersburg State Community College is an open access, learning-centered institution that serves seven counties in West Tennessee. Founded in 1969, DSCC's vision is to elevate the region's educational attainment thereby enhancing the quality of life in West Tennessee. The home campus of DSCC is in Dyersburg, and centers are located in Covington and Trenton. DSCC offers Tennessee Transfer Pathways programs, career technical certificates and degrees; learning support courses, continuing education and public service programs. The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award the associate degree. Learning is enhanced by a variety of student organizations, international learning opportunities, state of the art technology and intercollegiate athletic programs.

The Tennessee Board of Regents

The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) is Tennessee's largest higher education system, governing 40 post-secondary educational institutions with over 200 teaching locations. The TBR system includes 13 community colleges and 27 colleges of applied technology, providing programs to students across the state, country and world.

COURT SQUARE
FARMERS MARKET
 EST. 2010
 COVINGTON TENNESSEE

OPENING DAY
May 16th

Stay tuned for more announcements about our safe social distancing protocols! Support local businesses and farm families as you find the freshest produce from the Tipton County region!

117 North Main Street Covington
 "Under the Water Tower"

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

Need some inspiration to keep you moving?

Sign up for Marathon Month today!

Walk a half marathon (13 miles) or a full marathon (26 miles) over the entire month of May

Marathon Month

- Set your own schedule– 1 mile a day, 2 miles three times a week– whatever works for you
- Walk around your neighborhood, on a treadmill, outdoor track at the park.
- Must be in addition to your regular steps (cannot just wear a pedometer all day)
- Keep track of your miles walked for exercise
- Report at the end of May to Katie via email at kwyatt3@utk.edu
- Call Katie At 901-476-0231 with any questions