



November 19, 2020

Dear Pigeon Forge Residents:

Governor Bill Lee has extended the authority through the end of the year for county mayors to offer mask mandates. After evaluation of Sevier County's increasing new cases of Covid-19 and consultation with city and county leaders as well as our health care and tourism officials, Sevier County Mayor Larry Waters has extended our county's mask mandate through Dec. 29. Executive Order 48 is posted [here](#). Masks are required indoors and strongly recommended in outdoor spaces where social distancing is not possible.

What this means for our community: now, more than ever, is the time to take every precaution and enforce all safety protocols. In addition to wearing a mask, please maintain social distancing, wash your hands, disinfect surfaces, and avoid congregating.

The cooler temperatures bring us indoors, and we know that shared spaces contribute to the spread of this disease. This is especially important as we approach the holidays and the onset of the flu season. Efforts to manage the spread of Covid-19 are imperative as we know there is the potential to overburden our health care system. In addition, if new cases continue to increase, we know that our local businesses and our school system could be affected.

If you feel sick, please get a test. If you think you may have the virus, get a test. Be particularly careful as it relates to coming in contact with members of our vulnerable populations. Free testing is available Monday through Friday at the Sevier County Health Department. Remember: when in doubt, you should be tested and isolate accordingly. While no one wants to be separated from friends and loved ones, your actions could save the life of a friend or loved one.

Our community's safety and wellbeing are our top concern. Please don't let your guard down as we approach the holidays. The best gift you can give friends, family, neighbors and coworkers this year is a pledge to honor their good health.

Sincerely,

Earlene Teaster, City Manager

David Wear, Mayor