



## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 8, 2020

## **Mayor schedules Live Televised Briefing on Facebook and CityTV amid “Stay at Home” Emergency for COVID-19**

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** — Mayor Shane McFarland will hold another Live televised briefing Wednesday, April 8, at 6 p.m. to be carried live on Facebook and CityTV. The CityTV Live televised briefing can be viewed on Comcast Xfinity channel 3 & 1094, AT&T Uverse channel 99, Roku, Apple TV via Cablecast Screenweave, [www.youtube.com/cityofmurfreesboro](http://www.youtube.com/cityofmurfreesboro), and city website at [www.murfreesborotn.gov/citytv](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/citytv). To watch the briefing live on Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/cityofmurfreesborotn>.

“I want to continue to update the citizens of Murfreesboro on both the health and economic impact of the coronavirus to provide information on how to protect you and your loved ones as well as the livelihood of workers and small businesses in our community,” stated Mayor Shane McFarland. “The regular Live televised briefing on Facebook Live is a way for me to provide essential information and allow citizens to ask pertinent questions related to this crisis.”

Rutherford County law enforcement prepared a #SaferatHome message. The video can be viewed on Facebook at <https://youtu.be/415wipTnJxo>.

Many citizens have questions about whether a service or business can continue to operate under Governor Lee’s Executive Orders. **Executive Order 22 stipulates, “Businesses or organizations that do not perform Essential Services shall not be open for access or use by the public or its members.”** For information on essential services, citizens are encouraged to visit Governor’s Lee’s Covid-19 website for the latest updates and information <https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/essential-services.html>. A graphic is also attached. The essential services webpage provides guidance for citizens to clarify the difference between essential and non-essential services and businesses.

On April 2, 2020, Governor Lee issued Executive Order No. 23, amending and strengthening Executive Order 22, by requiring all Tennesseans to “stay at home,” unless they are carrying out “essential activities” defined in Executive Order 22. The Executive Orders allow for the continuation of essential businesses. Non-essential businesses including establishments open for eating or drinking onsite, are ordered to remain closed until April 14 at 11:59 p.m.

On April 3, Murfreesboro Mayor Shane McFarland renewed the Declaration of ‘State of Emergency,’ extending the City’s previous declaration and adopting Governor Bill Lee’s ‘Stay at Home’ Executive Order No. 23 that was issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The renewed Declaration is effective immediately and remains in effect until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10.

Helpful links are provided below to assist workers and businesses impacted by Covid-19:

- Workers displaced by the impact of the pandemic, can apply for **unemployment benefits** at [www.Jobs4TN.gov](http://www.Jobs4TN.gov).
- Small businesses can apply for the **Paycheck Protection Program** to secure a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll through the U.S. Department of Treasury at <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/top-priorities/cares-act/assistance-for-small-businesses>.
- The Small Business Administration (SBA) will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. The Program authorized \$350 billion in fully forgivable loans to help small businesses maintain payrolls during the coronavirus pandemic. Small business should work with local financial institutions to participate in the program which went live on April 2. More information on the loans is available at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>.

Citizens can view the Mayor’s Declarations and follow the latest City **Coronavirus Information** at the City of Murfreesboro website: <https://www.murfreesborotn.gov/1690/Coronavirus-Information>.

Residents are also encouraged to watch **CityTV** for updates, including closings and postponements as well as CDC videos. For video messages, including COVID-19 Updates and Briefings from Mayor McFarland, visit <http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/1702/City-Video-Messages>.

For detailed information from **Governor Bill Lee** including daily briefings, visit the Office of Governor website at <https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19.html>.

For information from the Tennessee **Department of Health**, visit <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html>.

For the **Centers for Disease Control** (CDC) COVID-19 webpage and most recent information and guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

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The City urges all citizens to comply with the Governor's "Stay at Home" Order and CDC guidelines and practices:

- CDC Guidelines: Strongly encourages all members of the public to comply with the guidance and directives issued by the federal CDC pertaining to the containment of COVID-19, which can be found by going to <https://www.cdc.gov/>;
- Social/Physical Distancing: Strongly encourages individuals using shared or outdoor spaces to maintain physical distancing of at least six (6) feet from any other person with whom they do not share a residence;
- Mass Gatherings: In accordance with Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order No. 17, social gatherings of more than ten (10) people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited. This would include gyms and exercise and fitness facilities as well as cigar bars, hookah lounges, and other establishments whose business involves offering a place for people to gather and smoke tobacco and similar products to close and remain closed to any member of the public. This provision does not prohibit the gathering of members of the same household;
- City Parks: Prohibits sporting events, athletic practices or games, or any other gathering involving ten (10) or more people (who do not resident together) from taking place in any City park or on the property of an elementary or secondary school within the City. The City's greenways and other park facilities remain open, provided individuals using the greenways comply with Section 10 of this Order and abide by the physical distancing requirements recommended by the CDC.
- Restaurants and On-Site Food and Alcohol Service: Orders that establishments whose primary business is alcohol service or food service remain closed for on-site consumption as required by Governor Lee's Executive Order No. 17 or as may be required by any subsequent order of the Governor amending or superseding Executive Order No. 17. The order does not prohibit pick-up, take-out, delivery, or drive through service that is conducted in accordance with Executive Order No. 17. In addition, the order does not apply to non-profit or government organizations providing food at no cost to individuals who are homeless or are otherwise in need of such services;

The City urges all citizens to continue to follow CDC practices:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your cough and sneezing.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice social distancing.
- Stay home when you are sick and call your physician or the County Health Department at 615-898-7880 or 615-849-0347 for guidance.
- Stay home if you come into contact with someone who is sick.
- Clean and disinfect objects (e.g., cell phone, computer) and high touch surfaces.
- Make sure you continue to have adequate supplies, such as medications, if needed.

For City News online, visit [www.Murfreesborotn.gov](http://www.Murfreesborotn.gov).

**Graphics and Declaration Order attached:**

1. *Mayor Shane McFarland Live Briefing.jpg*

2. *TN Essential Business graphic.jpg*

3. *Stay at Home graphic.jpg* (###)