

BILL KETRON
COUNTY MAYOR



RUTHERFORD COUNTY
TENNESSEE

September 21, 2020

Ref: Rutherford County Face Covering Order

Dear Citizens of Rutherford County,

I am officially lifting the Rutherford County Face Covering Order on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. CDT.

It has almost been six months since we started this COVID-19 journey. We have learned a lot even though the landscape has been and continues to change almost daily. Your compliance with the order which went into effect on July 22, had a significant impact on our numbers going down. This was hard to ignore. We are encouraged by the data trends and want to continue down that path! This does not discount the fact that the virus is here and not going anywhere anytime soon. Therefore, I am asking that as a community, we revert once more to being #RutherfordResponsible.

Multiple opinions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have cited that wearing masks works, though we acknowledge that it could be the combination of wearing masks, washing hands, and other recommended health practices (i.e. social distancing) and not just one specific protective measure. Being #RutherfordResponsible means incorporating all these health practices into your daily routine to continue to effectively slow the spread of the virus in our community.

If you are asked by a local business to mask before entering, please comply with their request. Honor them by believing in their right to mandate their own future. We cannot afford to shut them down again. Some of them will not survive a second time around. Though the health and well-being of our community remains top priority, we cannot disregard the need to begin the process of economic resiliency in Rutherford County.

Lastly, I will say, please respect one another. Some will choose to continue masking and others will decide not to mask. This does not mean that this difference among citizens should cause discord in the community. Be kind to those on the other side of the fence. Rutherford County is a caring and compassionate community. Do not let this pandemic change that, or you!

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we continue to navigate these unusual times together.

Sincerely,

Bill Ketron