

**KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Regulation No. 2020-2**

**WHEREAS**, the novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020, a single day before the first COVID-19 infection was identified in Knox County; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 13, 2020 the average number of new COVID-19 infections identified daily in Knox County has increased 224% since May 25, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the average weekly increase of new COVID-19 infections in Knox County between May 24, 2020 and July 11, 2020 was 61%; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of new infections of COVID-19 identified in Knox County in the month of June 2020 were 389% of the new cases identified in the month of May 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of new infections of COVID-19 identified in Knox County for the first 11 days in July exceeded the total number of new COVID-19 infections identified during the entire month of June 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of Knox County residents infected and hospitalized with COVID-19 was 328% greater in the month of June 2020 when compared to May 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of Knox County residents hospitalized due to COVID-19 for the first 10 days in July exceeded the total number of Knox County residents hospitalized due to COVID-19 during the entire month of June 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, 4 months of observational data has shown that any policy change aimed at mitigating the rate of COVID-19 hospitalizations will take 3 – 4 weeks to have a detectable effect; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 7, 2020 the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response in the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) informed Knox County officials that Knox County has been identified as a “hot spot” for COVID-19 infections; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 14, 2020, the Tennessee Department of Health asserted that Knox County is above the “threshold for acceptable disease transmission within the community” using the metric of the average rate of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 county residents over the last 14 days; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 12, 2020, the Harvard Global Health Institute has identified Knox County as risk level ORANGE requiring, “stay-at-home orders and/or rigorous test and trace programs...” in order to bring COVID-19 new infection growth under control; and

**WHEREAS**, if the rapid growth of new COVID-19 infections in Knox County cannot be brought under control through the actions of Knox County residents, businesses, and public entities, further closures may become needed to protect public health and to ensure Knox County hospital systems are

not overrun and will be able to continue to meet the needs of patients suffering from COVID-19 and other critical health needs; and

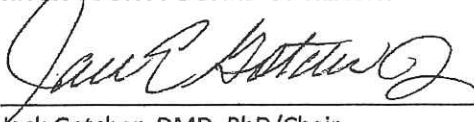
**WHEREAS**, it is vital for the Knox County public health, economy, and the education of the children of Knox County that the Knox County Board of Health in concert with the Knox County Health Department, the Knox County Commission, and the Knox County Board of Education work to ensure appropriate actions are taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to attempt to avoid the need for full or partial closures.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Knox County Board of Health, by virtue of the power and authority vested in it, to protect the general health and safety of the citizens of Knox County, does hereby declare that a continuing public health emergency exists in Knox County, Tennessee, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and adopts the following recommendations to Knox County businesses, schools, venues, and residents:

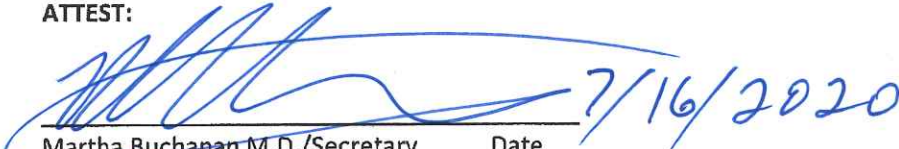
1. This regulation should be cited as the "COVID-19 Community Education Recommendation."
2. This regulation shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on July 16, 2020 and shall remain in effect until amended, superseded, or rescinded by the Knox County Board of Health.
3. Physical distancing works to slow the spread of COVID-19 and all efforts should be made ensure physical distance is maintained between people not living in the same household.
4. Face coverings, if worn properly, significantly limit the ability of COVID-19 to spread from the person wearing the face covering via breathing, talking, coughing, or sneezing.
5. Laboratory experiments have demonstrated that COVID-19 can live for more than 24 hours on surfaces; accordingly, frequent hand washing and disinfection of high-touch surfaces works to slow the spread of COVID-19.
6. It is absolutely vital for those that have been confirmed to be infected with COVID-19, as well as those awaiting results of a COVID-19 test, to quarantine themselves until they have been confirmed to be COVID-19 free.
7. It is also vital that residents stay at home if they are sick or if they are instructed to stay home by a medical or public health professional. If residents feel sick and are concerned, they should contact their doctor.
8. All reasonable steps should be taken by residents, businesses, public agencies, and others in Knox County to educate themselves regarding these mitigation measures and to follow these recommendations in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Knox County.

**ADOPTED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

  
Jack Gotcher, DMD, PhD/Chair 7/16/2020  
Date

ATTEST:

  
Martha Buchanan M.D./Secretary 7/16/2020  
Date