

Sullivan County

Office of the County Mayor



Richard S. Venable
County Mayor

PRESS RELEASE

March 31, 2021

BLOUNTVILLE, TENNESSEE – Sullivan County Mayor, Richard S. Venable and Medical Director Dr. Stephen May have extended the Order for the public and businesses to continue to wear face coverings until April 31, 2021 or until rescinded.

As shown on the attachment from the Sullivan County Health Department part of the reason for the extension is because of the lack of progress as a County in stopping the COVID-19 spread. We have vaccinated 73% of County residents over the age of 70 which has resulted in a decrease in the number of deaths; however, a large segment of our population who are vulnerable remain unvaccinated.

Your elected and appointed representatives will continue to meet weekly to review this Order and assess the communities progress and the containment of the spread of this disease.

For more information, please call
Sullivan County Health Department at (423) 279-2777.

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Richard S. Venable
County Mayor

SULLIVAN COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER EIGHT

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19, has spread through the world and has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee declared a State of Emergency to deploy additional resources to combat the spread of the virus; and


WHEREAS, Governor Lee has issued Executive Orders which, among other things provide instruction for the operation of businesses during the COVID-19 global pandemic; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Richard Venable, pursuant to State of Tennessee Executive Orders and the laws of the State of Tennessee execute the following in conjunction with Andrew S. May, MD, Medical Director Sullivan County Regional Health Department:

1. Effective at 12:01 a.m. on March 31, 2021, all businesses, organizations, or venue open to usage by members of the public in Sullivan County, Tennessee shall require the use of face coverings or masks by their employees and members of the public while inside their premises in areas accessible by the public.
NOTE: Face coverings or masks should NOT be worn by children under two or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
2. Places of worship are exempt from the requirements of this Order, pursuant to Governor Lee's Executive Orders No. 38 and 50.
3. This Order does not require businesses, organizations, or venues to supply face coverings or masks to members of the public.
4. Use of face coverings or masks shall not be required by members of the public while seated for the purpose of dining in any restaurant or business that provides food and/or drink for on premises consumption or other business as defined by The Tennessee Pledge.
5. Sullivan County, Tennessee continues to be governed in all other aspects by the Executive Orders issued by Governor Lee.
6. This order shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2021, unless otherwise modified or withdrawn by future Orders or by the State of Tennessee.

Issued this 31st day of March 2021.


Richard S. Venable, Sullivan County Mayor


Andrew Stephen May, M.D., FAAFP
Regional Medical Director/Health Officer
Sullivan County Regional Health Department



Sullivan County Regional Health Department

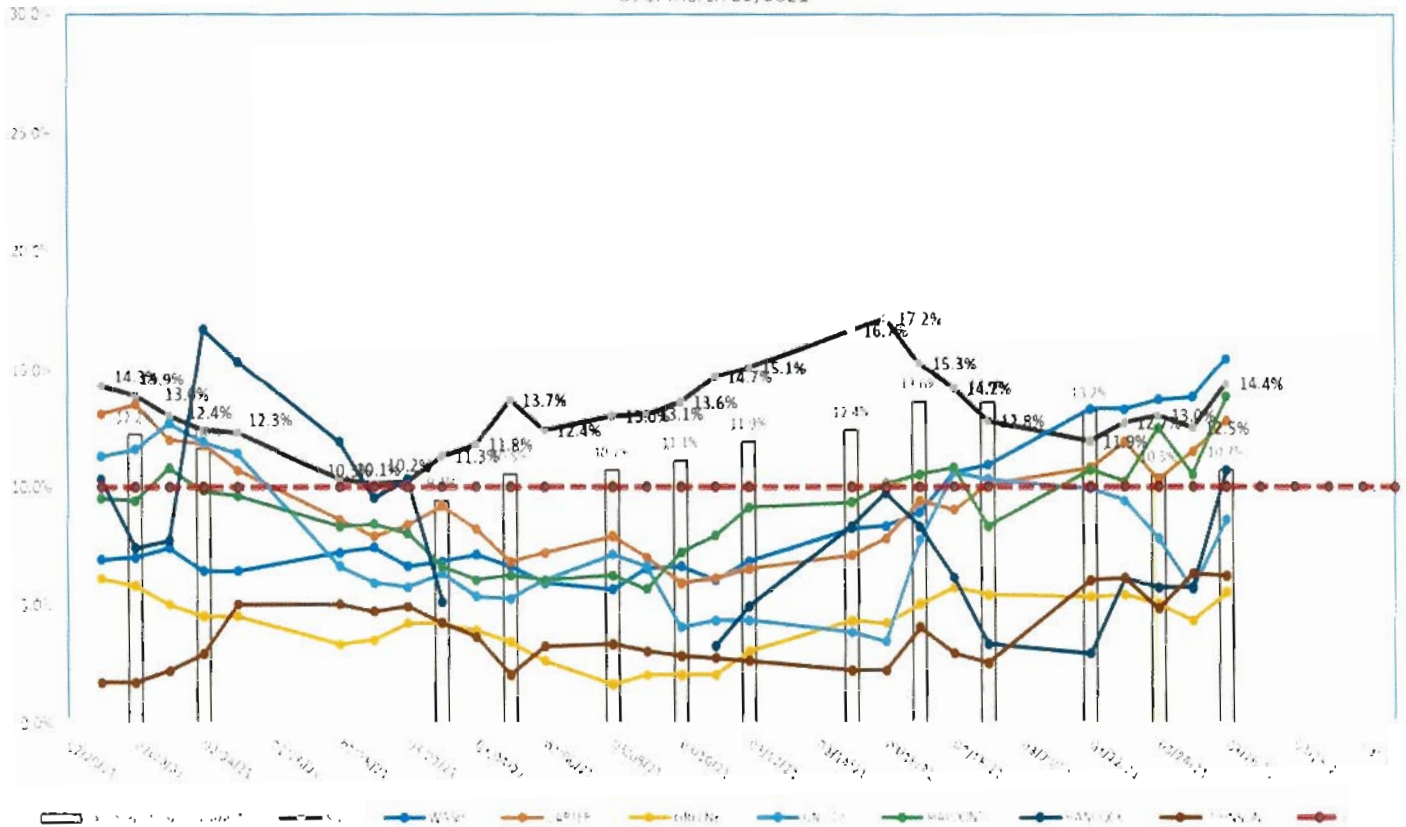
The Road to Good Public Health

P.O. Box 630, Blountville, TN 37617 / 1041 E. Sullivan Street, Kingsport, TN 37660

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Blountville Fax: 423-279-2797
Kingsport Fax: 423-224-1640

- Sullivan County continues to have a high case rate.
- Sullivan County is fifth highest in the State case positivity rate.
- The presence of the U.K. variant B117 in our region.
- Concern from our experience regarding spring break.
- Not everyone in Sullivan County has had an opportunity to be vaccinated.
- Hospitalizations slightly ticked upward.

7 Day Average Percent Positive Throughout Tri-Cities Area
as of March 26, 2021



*Sullivan Health Service Area includes 21 counties across TN and VA: TN: Carter, Cooke, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington, VA: Buchanan, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, Wythe, Bristol, City, Norton, City.