



**CITY OF WHITE HOUSE  
EXECUTIVE ORDER**

BY THE MAYOR

No. 001

**AN ORDER DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE NOVEL  
CORONAVIRUS IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AND TO FACILITATE THE  
CONTAINMENT OF COVID-19**

**WHEREAS**, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that can result in mild or severe symptoms, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and can lead to serious illness or death, particularly in the case of older adults and persons with serious medical conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, in late 2019, a significant outbreak of COVID-19 occurred, and this disease has since spread to many countries; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 16, 2020, the Tennessee Department of Health activated the State Health Operations Center (SHOC), and on January 21, 2020, following CDC guidance, the Department designated COVID-19 as a reportable disease in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020, Governor Bill Lee of the State of Tennessee announced the formation of a Coronavirus Task Force to enhance Tennessee's coordinated efforts to prevent, identify, and treat potential cases of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020, the first case of COVID-19 in the State of Tennessee was identified, and several additional confirmed or presumptively positive cases of COVID-19 have since been identified in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, several states, counties, and cities throughout the country have declared states of emergency to facilitate their responses to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, a state of emergency has been declared through Executive Order issued March 12, 2020, Governor Bill Lee of the State of Tennessee in connection with the COVID-19 disease outbreak; and

**WHEREAS**, the spread and identification of additional cases of COVID-19 in Tennessee is likely to continue, and therefore, taking proactive steps to prevent a substantial risk to public health and safety is paramount; and

**WHEREAS**, confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Robertson and Sumner Counties, Tennessee, it is advisable to be pro-active in adopting local measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to aid in its containment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of White House, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen have a responsibility to take all reasonably possible actions to ensure public health, safety, and welfare in the event of an infectious disease pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, empirical medical evidence and expert reports strongly indicate and advice that the spread of the COVID-19 disease is effectively slowed by frequent hand washing, social distancing, self-quarantine, and the reduction of public interactions and gatherings of groups of people; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions of this Order are necessary to maximize efforts to protect the health and safety of City employees and all White House residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the City government desires and intends to continue to provide exemplary government services of the highest quality to White House residents and visitors while dealing effectively with the challenges presented by the pandemic through a reasoned, flexible response and pro-active steps to stem the spread of the pandemic and lessen its impact on public health, safety, and welfare, and on local economic activity; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee Code Annotated §58-2-110 and §58-8-104 provides the City Mayor with the power and authority to declare a local state of emergency, to include in cases of disease outbreaks and epidemics, which shall have an immediate effect when declared for a period of seven (7) days, but may have continuing effect beyond (7) days in seven (7) day increments; and

**WHEREAS**, a person who willfully violates an order issued commits a Class C misdemeanor.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Michael L. Arnold, Mayor of the City of White House, Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Charter for the City of White House, Tennessee, and the City Code, and other applicable law, do hereby declare a state of emergency exists in the City of White House to facilitate an effective response to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to aid in its containment, and do hereby order the following:

1. The provisions of the City Municipal Emergency Operations Plan are ordered into effect as applicable.
2. All Parks and Recreation Department events, activities, and programs are canceled during the time period of this declared state of emergency, and any extension thereof.
3. Public Library and Visitor Center/Museum normally opened to the public are closed.
4. All citizens of White House are urged to shelter at home as much as possible. When individuals shelter in their homes or places of residence, they should practice appropriate social isolation, staying six feet apart, and should assume others are infectious, regardless of whether they exhibit symptoms.
5. All gatherings are strongly discouraged, and those with more than 10 people are prohibited. Gatherings include any event or convening unrelated to essential services that brings



together groups of individuals, including, but not limited to, community, civic, public, leisure, faith based, sporting events, parades, concerts, festivals, conventions, fundraisers, and similar activities.

6. Restaurants, bars, and similar food or drink establishments, including night clubs, shall not be open to persons, except only to offer drive-thru, pickup, carryout, or delivery service for food and drink.
7. Gyms or fitness/exercise centers or substantially similar facilities shall not be open to members or the public.
8. Persons and businesses should take particular care to protect the well-being of those populations especially vulnerable to COVID-19.
9. All members of the public and businesses are strongly encouraged to follow and comply with guidance and directives issued by the federal CDC and state and local departments of health.
10. Citizens and visitors are expected to follow all emergency declaration orders given by Robertson County Mayor, Sumner County Mayor, and the Governor of the State of Tennessee.
11. All members of the public are strongly encouraged to remain calm, to resist panic purchasing, consider their neighbors who have need, and to look after and help those most at risk to this pandemic to include the elderly and those with suppressed immune systems. Our faith prescribes life, and life more abundantly. Our finest hour is at hand.
12. This Executive Order and Declaration of a Local State of Emergency shall remain in effect until 4:00pm, Central Daylight Time, on March 30, 2020, at which time this Order and declaration of emergency shall cease and be of no further force and effect, unless sooner terminated, or extended in seven (7) day increments, by written amendment hereof, or by subsequent written order issued, in accordance with law.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have subscribed by signature and caused the Seal of the City of White House to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2020.



Michael Arnold, Mayor

ATTEST:



Derek Watson, City Recorder

