



Ed Mitchell
Blount County Mayor
341 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906
Telephone 865-273-5700

How Do the Governor's Executive Orders Impact Blount County?

We want to clarify how the Governor's Executive Orders and the most recently released Tennessee Pledge applies to Blount County during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Misinformation about the Statewide phased plan to reopen Tennessee can create confusion and add to the chaos of life in the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are the basics of how and where Governor Lee's Executive Orders and Tennessee Pledge Plan apply to TN counties (as well as how and where they DON'T apply!).

TN's 95 counties are split into two groups:

- Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Madison, Shelby and Sullivan Counties are the state's 6 metro counties, which have their own locally run county health departments and their own Public Health Official. These counties have the authority to create their own plan for reopening separate from what the Governor issues.
- The remaining 89 counties (including Blount) will abide by what the Governor orders for a Statewide reopening plan. This includes TN Pledge guidelines for restaurants and retail, which you can find here:

<https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/economic-recovery/tennessee-pledge.html>.

These 89 counties do not have the authority to implement alternative plans to those put forth by Governor Lee.

Because Knox County and other metro counties can create their own reopening plans and implement phases that differ from those set forward by Governor Lee, timelines for reopening in the Blount County area will differ from those followed in Knox County.

More information about Knox County's phased plan can be found here:

<https://covid.knoxcountyttn.gov/pdfs/A-Community-Strategy-for-Phased-Reopening.pdf>

Aside from the complexity of understanding the differences between Knox and Blount Counties, false information serves to further complicate and confuse the situation. This graphic was seen circulating widely on social media and is NOT APPLICABLE IN BLOUNT COUNTY. Our State Representative has reached out to local agencies to clarify that this graphic was NOT created by a State organization and does not portray accurate information. Please look to credible sites (TN.gov and the TN Department of Health webpage, local county websites, etc.) for information about State and local developments in the reopening process.

