



**Sheriff James Lee Berrong, Blount County Sheriff's Office
Chief Tony Jay Crisp, Maryville Police Department
Chief David Carswell, Alcoa Police Department
Chief Kevin Condee, Townsend Police Department**

APRIL 3, 2020

BLOUNT COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS RESPONSE TO "SAFER AT HOME" ORDERS

BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE - Blount County Sheriff James Lee Berrong, Maryville Police Chief Tony Jay Crisp, Alcoa Police Chief David Carswell, and Townsend Police Chief Kevin Condee are committed to following their statutory duties to keep our citizens safe. The Sheriff and Chiefs are also united in strongly urging Blount County residents to abide by Governor Bill Lee's Executive Orders in reference to stopping the spread of COVID-19 in Tennessee, and more specifically, our county.

Executive Orders 22 and 23 require Tennesseans to stay home unless engaging in essential activity or essential services. What does this mean? You may travel to visit an essential business or perform an Essential Activity, as provided in Executive Order 22, but you are strongly encouraged to limit your frequency of both. We are requesting you limit the number of family members entering into these businesses to as minimum number of people as possible. Please review Executive Order 22 at this link: <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/pub/execorders/exec-orders-lee22.pdf>. These orders are in effect until 11:59 p.m., April 14, 2020. This is NOT a mandated "Shelter in Place" order, but instead requires Tennesseans who are not engaging in essential activity and/or working in businesses performing essential services to remain at home.

A frequently asked question that law enforcement has received over the last several hours is whether or not citizens are allowed to take walks on our Greenways, ride their bicycles, and perform their normal outdoor activities. The answer is YES, but it should be limited. According to Executive Order 22, engaging in outdoor activity is allowed, however, congregating or playing on playgrounds is NOT covered as an Essential Activity. Please review the information provided by the CDC regarding COVID-19 at this link: www.cdc.gov.

Sheriff Berrong, Chief Crisp, Chief Carswell, and Chief Condee want to assure citizens that their respective law enforcement officers will NOT be setting up checkpoints to check for travel documents of citizens who are following the guidelines set forth in these Executive Orders.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and President Donald Trump's Coronavirus Task Force have stated that COVID-19 is frequently spread between people who are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet). **WE URGE YOU TO ABIDE BY THIS SOCIAL DISTANCING RULE!**

We are also asking citizens of Blount County to do what we do best: pull together as a community and help one another.

Check on your friends, family, and your neighbors, especially if they live alone, by phoning them.
Offer to grocery shop for an elderly friend, neighbor, or family member.
Donate blood if you are able. Medic Regional Blood Center needs your donation. Visit their website to make an appointment.
<https://medicblood.org/>

This is a fluid situation and continually changing. We will keep you apprised of updates as they occur.

As the law enforcement leaders in Blount County, we want to assure you that we are not going anywhere, and we will continue to serve and protect our citizens. We are asking you to push through the next 12 days and abide by these Executive Orders. Stay at home, enjoy time with your family, and make the best of this serious situation. We are all united in this together, and if we all do our part, we can flatten the curve of the COVID-19 spread.

Helpful and reputable websites:

www.cdc.gov
www.tn.gov/health
www.tn.gov/covid19
www.tn.gov/smallbusiness
blounttn.org
[Blount Intergovernmental COVID-19 Page](#)