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# MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF PIGEON FORGE

## HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

### CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Earlene Teaster, City Manager

The challenges presented by COVID-19 have been, and continue to be, unlike any our city has ever faced, and as we have through previous hardships, we will get through this as a city that is strong in community and faith.

The Pigeon Forge City Commissioners and I urge you to not let up on the fight against COVID-19. We couldn't have reopened our city's businesses without your help and now we ask for your continued commitment to public safety.

It is up to all of us to keep our families, our neighbors and our visitors safe by stopping the spread of this disease. Our city relies on our visitors, and we have to take every possible precaution to ensure their safety while in our city. We have enjoyed steady and strong visitation over the past few weeks, and we want this trend to continue. If we fall short of our responsibilities to our visitors, we know they can choose to travel elsewhere. Let's do everything we can to make Pigeon Forge safe for everyone.

We understand the discomfort of face coverings and the inconvenience of capacity limits and physical distancing; however, these measures are the only known practices that slow the spread of COVID-19. They are inconvenient but necessary for the immediate future. The simple reminders in this newsletter are just some of the ways you can help keep our community safe.

I hope that you all continue to look after one another, and our visitors, in the weeks and months ahead. These times are trying but, together, we'll overcome these challenges.

## TIPS TO STAY HEALTHY

As a reminder here are some ways to stay healthy and keep those around you healthy.

- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick and put distance between yourself and other people.** Avoid large groups of people, limit group sizes, and avoid contact with high-risk groups.
- **Wear cloth face coverings in public.**
- **Clean your hands often.** Wash your hands with soap and water, vigorously rubbing together front and back for 20 second. If you are not able to wash your hands, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers, rubbing hands together until they are dry.

- **Clean shared surfaces and equipment often.** Use disinfectants to clean commonly touched items such as doorknobs, faucet handles, microwave buttons, etc. Germs travel fast with multiple hands touching shared surfaces.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.**
- **Stay home when you're sick.** When you are sick or have flu symptoms, stay home and contact your primary care provider.

## FREE COVID-19 TESTING

If you feel unwell or have been around anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please get tested. It is crucial that you and anyone who has been exposed to someone who is sick be tested—even if you do not have symptoms. **You can be symptom-free and be sick with COVID-19. Remember: when in doubt, get a test!**

**Please visit any health department for a free test.** The Sevier County Health Department is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is located at 719 Middle Creek Road in Sevierville. Appointments and referrals are **not** required for testing.

**Free testing** also is available at the UT Urgent Care Clinic Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The clinic is located at 1130 Middle Creek Road in Sevierville. Anyone who has symptoms or who has been exposed to the virus should call the clinic from the parking lot (865-365-3074) for instructions before entering the building.

By getting tested, you are helping stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus and helping keep the residents and visitors of Pigeon Forge safe.

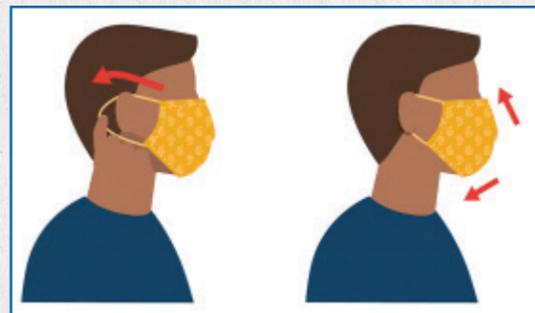
## TENNESSEE STRONG MASK MOVEMENT



Face coverings are essential to reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Even if you do not feel sick, the best way to protect yourself and others is to wear a cloth face covering while in public. A number of brands based in Tennessee have joined Governor Lee to create fun designs that show Tennessee pride while also caring for the safety of our neighbors.

To join the Tennessee Strong Mask Movement and order a five-pack of Tennessee Strong masks, visit [www.tnmasksupply.com](http://www.tnmasksupply.com).



Visit <https://youtu.be/tPx1yqvJgf4> to learn how to create a face covering with items you probably already have at home.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

### Vulnerable Population

The Centers for Disease Control continue to urge members of the vulnerable population to take extra precautions. This includes older adults (65 or older) and those who have underlying chronic medical conditions (such as heart or lung disease, diabetes, and autoimmune issues.) People in these categories are at a higher risk of developing more serious complications from COVID-19.

### Fourth of July

The annual Patriot Festival concert and other activities have been postponed until next year; however, a fireworks display will take place at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 4. It will be simulcast by WIVK-FM 107.7 FM radio station in Knoxville. Since the holiday tends to attract large crowds to Pigeon Forge, “drive-in” participation is recommended to minimize the gathering of larger crowds. Please keep social distancing in mind as you make plans to watch fireworks.

## KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Please be proactive about creating physical distance (at least six feet) between you and other people when you’re out of your home. If space is not immediately available, be diligent about putting distance between you and other people including coworkers, visitors, customers and other Pigeon Forge residents.

As we welcome more visitors to our city, social distancing can become a challenge in crowded areas. Be mindful of your proximity to other people as you carry out your daily activities. Do your part and stay apart!

## STAY UP TO DATE

For real-time updates and announcements, please visit [www.CityofPigeonForge.com](http://www.CityofPigeonForge.com) or follow the City of Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism Facebook page.