



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

**JOHN COOPER
MAYOR**

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE
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March 22, 2020

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining our call on Friday regarding how faith communities can partner with Metro Nashville and the Health Department to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep us all safe. I very much appreciate your support of our city's efforts, and I understand the sacrifice you are making as we practice safe and effective social distancing measures.

Earlier today, I announced a Safer at Home Order, issued by the Metro Public Health Department, for all of Metro Nashville and Davidson County. This is the next step our city must take to encourage people to stay home. Effective tonight at midnight, all those who live in Davidson County should stay in their homes, except to leave to provide or receive essential services, or to work for essential businesses and government services. This Order will be in effect for 14 days.

This Order is an extension of the actions we have already taken over the past week to reduce the spread of the virus by limiting public gatherings and contact with others. The sooner we enact essential safety measures like the Safer at Home Order, the sooner we will be able to go back to our regular routines.

We know this will likely produce many questions from members of your congregation, and we want to assist in providing timely and accurate information. Please assure them that this action simply formalizes what many are already doing: staying home and keeping distance from others. They can still go to the grocery store and the pharmacy. Their utilities and other services will continue. I need your help explaining to your faith communities the reasons behind this temporary Order and what it actually means so they are not overly concerned.

The following is an overview of the order:

- All bar and restaurant on-site services will be closed and can serve customers only through delivery, take-out, curbside, and drive-through.
- On-site activities at hospitality, educational, fitness, sports, and entertainment venues, business, and facilities will close. On-line activities through these businesses may continue.
- Services that require direct human contact, including hair, nail, massage, tattoo and other such facilities will close.
- All businesses not performing essential services will close. Essential services will remain open.
- Public and private social clubs will close.



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- Non-essential social and educational programs at senior citizen and other assisted living communities and centers will end until further notice.
- All gatherings are strongly discouraged, and those with greater 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, or sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; conventions; fundraisers; and similar activities.
- City parks will remain open. Citizens using these open spaces will adhere to CDC guidance on social distancing and hand hygiene, remaining 6 feet apart.

The full Order will be released later today on [covid19.nashville.gov](https://www.covid19.nashville.gov)

Nashville is great in large part because of the spiritual leadership and strength you provide to our citizens. I am grateful for your partnership and for walking with our city through this challenging time.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cooper".

Mayor John Cooper