



210 East Walnut Street | Nicholasville, KY 40356 | www.jessaminehealth.org

Dear Jessamine County Community,

In response to the increasing community transmission of COVID-19 in Kentucky, on July 9, 2020 Governor Andy Beshear enacted Executive Order 2020-586 requiring mandatory face coverings to cover the nose and mouth. This executive order, https://governor.ky.gov/attachments/20200709_Executive-Order_State-of-Emergency.pdf, requires compliance from members of the public in Kentucky to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect our economy in moving forward. The provisions of enforcement of this executive order have been defined through an Emergency Administrative Regulation, 902 KAR 2:190E. The enforcement of compliance related to business or other public-facing entities has been given to the Labor Cabinet, Department for Public Health, another state regulatory agency and each local health department. As it pertains to individuals, compliance is enforced by state and local law enforcement authorities as required by KRS 39A.180.

The Jessamine County Health Department (JCHD) encourages all members of the public to comply with the orders of wearing a face covering to protect our community's health and economy. Until we have a vaccine, herd immunity or effective therapeutic for COVID-19, we have a limited number of tools to use in our response for keeping everyone safe, in both business and working. The main tools we currently have available are social distancing, frequent hand washing and sanitizing, and wearing a face covering. During this Pandemic response to COVID-19, which has affected everyone in the world, a face covering not only helps protect you from transmitting or contracting the virus but also sends a distinct message that you care about those around you as much as you do yourself. While we have an enforcement role in public health, we are educators first and foremost. Therefore, we want to ensure that everyone understands the reasons for wearing a face covering and how to properly wear such face covering. Please visit the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html> to learn more.

The consequences of non-compliance with the Governor's face covering executive order ultimately will be an increased number of positive COVID-19 cases as well as an increase in related deaths. Therefore, we urge everyone to do their part to protect yourself, your family, your friends and your community. As an enforcement arm of the Governor's order, the JCHD will be following up on every reported non-compliance concern rendered against a business and ensuring the business understands their requirements for compliance. After educating the business, any continued non-compliance of the same business will be reported to the Kentucky Labor Cabinet for further action. The JCHD desires everyone's compliance with this order so to justly protect our community's health and economy with everyone doing their part and getting through this unprecedented time together. Thank you for your part in being a good neighbor!

In Good Health,

Randy Gooch, Executive Director
Jessamine County Health Department