

I have received a number of questions regarding closing the Courthouse and other facilities. In a County Mayor's conference call and other conversations with Mayors and others here, here is a copy of a recent release from one of our adjacent counties.

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TCA 68-2-603 provides that the County Health Officer is empowered to order the closure of any public facility or building. Pursuant to TCA 68-2-609, the County Health Officer is empowered to order:

- The quarantine of any place or person, if the county health officer finds that quarantine is necessary to protect the public from an epidemic;
- The closure of any public establishment, facility or building if the county health officer finds unsanitary conditions of such a nature and extent to significantly threaten the public health; or
- The closure of any public establishment, facility or building if the county health officer is otherwise authorized by law to take that action.

**Executive Order No. 17 (found on [roanecountytn.gov](http://roanecountytn.gov)) from Governor Lee notes in item 3. "Government entities and businesses will continue providing important and essential services."**

With this in mind, I want you to understand that I know you are frustrated with our facilities continuing to operate, however, until we have a clearer directive from either the Governor, the President, or our Health Officer, I think we must comply with the Governor's Executive order to continue operations for the people we serve.

I am sincerely sorry if you are frustrated with me personally, but please know, I am as concerned as you are.

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Most all the County Mayors and Executives agree that we are limited. The Executive Order tells us, we can stay open, but we are doing what we can to control access.

Another area of concern is closing businesses. Again, we are on slippery slopes, if we order businesses closed, then if FEMA does not recognize the local governments closing of the business, does Roane County then take full responsibility of what Federal monies would have been available if the businesses had been closed per the understood law.

We are working daily on keeping everyone informed and working with our other Elected and Appointed officials.

I encourage everyone to visit [roanecountytn.gov](http://roanecountytn.gov) for the most update information.