

BOARD OF MEDICAL LABORATORY POLICY STATEMENT

RURAL DEFINED

As the word “*rural*” appears in Tennessee Code Annotated Section 68-29-111, the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board defines the meaning of “*rural*” consistent with the current federal Health Resources and Services Administration's definition of rural areas, to be:

- Non-metropolitan counties;
- Outlying metropolitan counties with no population from an urban area of 50,000 or more people;
- Census tracts with RUCA codes 4-10 in metropolitan counties;
- Census tracts of at least 400 square miles in area with population density of 35 or fewer people per square mile with RUCA codes 2-3 in metropolitan counties; or
- Census tracts with RRS 5 and RUCA codes 2-3 that are at least 20 square miles in area in metropolitan counties.

The federal Health Resources and Services Administration’s Analyzer Tool provides a web-based determination of rural status. The Tool may be found at <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health>.