

Covid-19 Update 03-19-2020

The County Executive and City Mayors met together and had conference call with Governor Lee on 3-18-2020. After the conference call the following email was received from the Governor's office.

We are forwarding on this email from the Governor's office.

Mayors,

Thank you for your attendance on the call with Governor Bill Lee this morning (and for your willingness to put your phones on mute).

We know these are uncertain times, and your willingness to coordinate will help with Tennessee's response. As Governor Lee said this morning, what Tennesseans do today will affect the lives of Tennesseans tomorrow.

To summarize the call:

- HB2815/SB2896 is moving through the legislative process as we speak. This bill authorizes local governments the ability to participate in public meetings by electronic or other means. You can keep up to date on the bill's progress by accessing the General Assembly's website. www.capitol.tn.gov
- We are working aggressively to secure personal protective equipment (PPE) and appropriate health equipment that may be needed.
- We have improved the capacity for testing in the state, and that capacity is increasing each and every day. Testing is now available through commercial vendors and the Department of Health. If individuals are showing symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), they should call their clinicians and the clinicians will direct them to sites that have the ability to test. More remote testing sites are coming online each and every day, and the Department of Health's website is a great resource for that information.
- The most recent budget amendment proposes \$200 million in grants to cities and counties for FY21.
- The state has loosened some restrictions in regard to TANF and unemployment eligibility, and we encourage you to watch our websites for up to date information on these benefits.
- We are working on providing guidance to county jails.

Below are links to websites that are important for you in the days to come. Information changes rapidly, and consulting these websites is the best way to get up-to-date information.

<https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19.html>

<https://www.tn.gov/health>

<https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov/remote-assessment-sites.html>

<https://sts.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Catalog/catalogs/mediasiteadmin-covid-19-media-briefing> (Governor Lee's press conferences are livestreamed and archived at this site)

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/finance/budget/documents/overviewspresentations/21AdminAmendOverviewRevisedEstimates.pdf> (This is the current budget amendment presented to the General Assembly)

https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us, and we will do our best to timely respond to your questions. Again, information changes quickly, and the way we respond may need to change as time continues. Thank you for partnering with us.