

Update on Covid-19. 3-20-2020

A Public Announcement:

A Public Announcement by Roane County Executive Ron Woody

This is an update to previous Announcements (New or Changed Items in Bold Red)

It has been a trying week for many in our community as we continue to deal with Covid-19. Our medical professionals are doing an outstanding job and we applaud their dedication and service to our community. Please say a “Thank You” to these men and women, but as we were taught, do it from a distance (Social Distancing).

We will get through this issue and continue our lives with hopefully a better understanding of what is important and have learned a few lessons that will benefit us into a prosperous future.

A few things have changed since our last update and they will be noted in bold or red below, but I will say we continue to monitor the situation with the leadership of Department of Health Director, Laura Connor along with our EMS/EMA Director Tim Suter.

Roane County does not have a reported positive case as this writing, but we do anticipate one in the near future as more testing is taking place.

We stay in constant contact with our Local Health Department, Regional Executives/Mayors, and our Office of Emergency Management to bring you the most up to date information on current and anticipated operations of county government.

Roane County’s Risk Management Committee met on Monday, March 16, 2020 and reviewed various documents of the daily CDC updates, the State orders noted in this public announcement, and the current county operational policies. The County Legislative Body and Executive branches continues to monitor the CDC daily updates, having daily contact with our local health department and other leadership as we manage local government affairs.

We understand that a lot of anxiety rest within the community and we will try to keep you informed in actions you should take and actions we are taking. We understand that our community will be impacted at some point in time, but we should not panic and should try to live our lives as normal as possible. Take recommendations from the CDC, check on your friends, family and neighbors. Reach out to your local churches as they are positioned to help met many basic needs your local governments may be unable to meet.

1. Two state orders have been put in place. The governor issuing Executive Order No.14 and the state supreme court with an order suspending in-person court proceedings (ADM2020-00428). Both of these can be found on the county website. www.roanecountytn.gov

2. Schools are out until March 31, 2020.

3. Jury trials have been cancelled, but courts will be opened on a limited basis. No one from the general public will have access to the courts outside of what has been noted in the Supreme Court order as noted in # 1 above. (Please see on the county website).

4. General public is not allowed to visit inmates. Lawyers will have access to their clients.

5. Additional cleaning is taking place at the courthouse. The courthouse is open.

6. Although, no specific guidelines have been established, it is recommended not to have a large gathering of people. The commission will determine at a later date whether a commission meeting will be held. **All committee meetings of Roane County have been cancelled through April 10.**

7. The Roane Gala has been rescheduled for June 5, 2020.

8. The Roane County Back Tax Sale scheduled for March 14, 2020 has been cancelled.

9. CDC does not recommend a gathering exceeding 10.

10. The Courthouse and all County Government Offices within the Courthouse are open.

11. The following Departments are Closed: NONE.

*** Some of our departments have changed some operational procedures related to the close contact. If you can, we request that you perform your business by phone or electronically.**

12. Committees of the Commission are cancelled through April 10.

13. The Roane County Ag Extension has suspended all face-to-face educational events and group meetings through April 30, 2020. The office will maintain basic office functions.

14. The Roane County Wastewater Plant is temporarily suspending all inside transactions. Please see roanecountyttn.gov (Wastewater Page) for additional information on ways to make a payment.

15. The School System is currently working to provide meals for children during the current closure. Breakfast and lunch will be offered at no cost to all children 18 years old and under. Each child will be able to pick up one breakfast and one lunch from 10AM – 12PM at one of the identified sites Monday through Friday beginning March 23rd. Please see the Roane County Schools website or Facebook page for pick-up locations.

16. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, in consultation with the Governor's office, has issued a directive that all American Job Centers across the State will, starting Monday 23 March 2020, be closed to the public. No foot traffic will be allowed in the 12 American Job Centers in our Area. Workforce professionals will be on the job Monday morning and beyond assisting customers telephonically and digitally. It is anticipated that additional State guidance will be forthcoming that extends the operating hours of AJCs from 7AM-7PM daily M-F with the possibility of Saturday hours in the near future as well.

Information on covid-19 can be found in both the state and federal government websites. www.cdc.gov and/or www.tn.gov/health.html

We hope and pray that this virus will be over soon but in the mean time we need to have good hygiene, check on our neighbors, and try to conduct our everyday life as normal as possible. If you think you may have the virus, stay isolated and call your primary care physician.