April 15, 2020

<u>PRESS RELEASE</u>

Today is April 14, 2020 and this is a 4:00pm update. I have some good news to report today.

First, testing times and sites. The Roane County Health Department will be open both Saturday and Sunday for testing.

On Sunday April 18, mass drive-thru testing will be held at the Harriman Roane State Community College campus. There will be three (3) National Guard teams at Roane State.

Roane County Covid-19 positive cases remain and five (5) and we have been steady for ten (10) days. Four (4) of the five (5) cases have recovered.

On Monday evening, the Roane County Commission took action on six (6) policy Resolutions regarding Covid-19. Four (4) Resolutions dealt with internal operations regarding leave policies and purchasing.

Two (2) Resolutions were of much significance as they granted the county authority to regulate operations outside the incorporated area.

The first of the two (2) Resolutions was an Umbrella Resolution that grants the county powers currently available only in cities.

The second of the two (2) Resolutions granted the county power to regulate during times of civil emergencies in order to protect the Public Health Safety and welfare of citizens in the unincorporated area of the county.

The third area I will address is Governor Bill Lee's update. Monday afternoon, Governor Bill Lee extended his "Stay at Home" Order until April 30th with the intent to re-open business in phases beginning May 1st.

Executive Order 26 deals with a question many have been asking. When will Roane County's businesses and Government get back to normal operations?
1. We must realize we may never get back to operating the way we were prior to Covid-19. Many operational procedures have changed and may never return to prior Covid-19.
2. To get back to as normal as possible, we are waiting on:

- The Supreme Court of Tennessee changed their March 31st ADM 2028-00428 Order.
- Executive Order changes specifically the "Safer at Home" Order 23 and 22 expiring which as of now is April 30th.

RW/ba
c:media