

April 29, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

Today is Wednesday, April 29th and this is a 9:00 am update. There's three (3) things I want to discuss.

1. Testing
2. Attorney General's Opinion 20-07 of April 27
3. Executive Order 30 of April 28

First, I'm glad to report that Roane County's positive cases continue to remain at seven (7). The last new positive case was reported on April 16th and all seven (7) cases have recovered. There have also been 1,325 Roane County citizens tested. Our percentage of positive cases are at ½ of 1% which is .005. For comparison, Knox County is at 3.75%. Roane County's population is 52,000. Knox County's population is 432,226. Knox County has 214 positive cases. If Knox County was performing as well as Roane County, they would only have 58 cases.

Second, the Attorney General's Opinion 20-07 as of Monday, April 27th. Had this question asked, "Do these Executive Orders serve as the exclusive regulation of the State's Emergency Management? May local governmental entities take actions or issue orders that conflict with the Governor's Executive Orders?" There's a six (6) page opinion and I will read from page four (4) of the summary.

..." local government entities may not take actions that are either more restrictive or less restrictive."

"Political subdivision are without power to issue emergency management orders that conflict with the Governor's Executive Orders."

Third, Executive Order 30 was issued yesterday, April 28th and excludes Knox County. It expires May 29th unless amended. It's a nine (9) page order with a lot of details and here are some of the highlights.

First of all, it continues closures of certain businesses, organizations and venues. Examples are:

- i. Barber Shops
- ii. Hair Salons
- iii. Nail Salons
- iv. Other Close Contact Services

It has also continued to close venues such as bars, nightclubs, and performance venues. Basically facilities that could have a gathering of individuals.

Executive Order 30 also mentions:

- No social gatherings of ten (10) or more.
- Places of worship, weddings, and funerals are not considered social gatherings.

We are working with our legislatives to protect our citizens and our local businesses.

God bless Roane County, our State, and our Nation!

Rw/ba
C:media