

December 16, 2020

Press Release

This is Ron Woody, Roane County Executive, with a Wednesday, December 16th 5:30 pm update. Between 3:30 and 5:00 today, I along with 67 doctors, county, city, state, and community leaders were on a conference video listening to the hospital's leaders of our medical facilities in the area discussing Covid related issues. Seven (7) doctors discussed with us a Regional approach to help in these trying times. Of course there is no way in five (5) minutes I can do any justice to their presentation, comments, and thoughts, but I would like to summarize and share a few quotes.

Five (5) core measures which help the situation from being worse than it currently is. These five (5) measures are:

1. Wear your mask and wear it properly.
2. Continue to wash your hands and practice good healthy hygiene.
3. Clean surfaces.
4. Social distance and avoid large groups.
5. If sick, stay at home.

A sixth one is being added to that which is the vaccine.

"Good news! These five (5) measures have helped reduce the Flu by about 40%."

"The vaccine is safe and I will be taking it."

One doctor was in the initial trials.

"There are some limited side effects which are normal and should quickly go away."

"We do not know how long the vaccine will be effective, but anticipate it to be significant and will help us reach herd immunity."

"We will get back to normal, but it will not be quickly."

"Things are anticipated to get worse before it gets better."

Discussions of the Mask

The typical mask protects others.

The N-95 mask protects the wearer that's the reason it is used in the hospital.

There has been discussion late last week while on a call with the Governor's office about the herd immunity.

The state doctor indicated that we need a minimum 60% of the population with vaccination or being exposed or positive to reach herd immunity. We are currently at 16%.

Today, doctors indicated we needed 70-80% for herd immunity.

The vaccine is part of the solution, and the five (5) core measures are also.

The doctors stress to us as leaders of the communities, to work together to protect our region.

Here are some number metrics that we follow that may be giving us an indication that masks are working. We will not know for probably a year what helped the most and what caused numbers to move, but monitoring this helped me come to my decision for the mask mandate.

I have been ranking Roane County and eight (8) surrounding counties. On November 30th we had ranked 7th, and now we are 6th.

Knox ranked as high as sixth, and now they are 2nd.

Rankings are a percentage of the population. Even though our numbers are getting higher, so are our neighbors'.

Roane County's active cases are 636 which 19% of those were positive.

We have had 40 deaths.

God bless the United States, Roane County, and the State of Tennessee.

RW/ba

C:media