



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs Issues Statement about Governor's Safer at Home Extension

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs issued the following statement about Governor Bill Lee's extension of the statewide Safer at Home Order.

"I understand Gov. Lee's decision to extend the Safer at Home Order is done with the best interest of the whole state in mind," said Mayor Jacobs. "With 36 active cases in Knox County, our numbers are stabilizing."

He continued: "This pandemic is serious, and I certainly don't want to underestimate it. Physical distancing wasn't intended to eradicate COVID-19, but rather to slow its spread and ensure we didn't overwhelm our hospital system. We know our numbers can still go up and expect they will, but with our low rate of hospitalizations and the discontinuation of elective surgeries, our hospitals are standing empty. In fact, many of those serving our health care system are being laid off or dispatched to hotspot areas, some out of state."

"With all that in mind, I agree with the Governor: Knox County and the State of Tennessee should not continue this model of economic shut down much longer. It isn't sustainable," Mayor Jacobs said. "We don't have to make a choice between a healthy economy and healthy people. There is a way to combat the virus without killing the economy. I look forward to helping create the plan that enables Knox County do this."

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