



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs Issues Statement on Phased Reopening of Non-Essential Hospital Services

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs issued the following statement about area hospitals beginning a phased reopening of non-essential services.

“The biggest concern of the COVID-19 pandemic was overwhelming hospitals and that hasn’t, and likely won’t, happen here,” said Mayor Jacobs. “I am pleased that our area hospitals are beginning to phase in services that were previously restricted.”

He continued: “The drastic response to COVID-19 has come at a price for hospitals. They have experienced dramatic decreases in revenue as beds, operating rooms, diagnostic centers and outpatient facilities sit empty. Even though hospitals are at the epicenter of a pandemic response, many have struggled to keep a balance of being prepared and continuing to operate at already tight margins.”

“It shouldn’t be up to government to decide what procedures and services are essential to those who need them,” said Mayor Jacobs. “And I think it’s clearly in everyone’s best interest to keep government out of the way so our great health care professionals can provide the exceptional care we have come to expect.”

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