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### **March 19 Update**

Good morning,

At the end of the day yesterday, [The Tennessee Department of Health](#) reported 98 cases in the state of Tennessee.

Blount Memorial began its drive-thru testing yesterday at East Tennessee Medical Group (and are not taking copays). Results will take five or more days to receive. We fully anticipate that the testing will reveal a number of cases in our county. With that, we are preparing our next phase of our protocols for the City to ramp up our safety plan and better protect your health and wellness – to include plans and preparations to allow us to serve customers without allowing them into the building.

### **Sanitization and Phase II Preparation**

- Managing Directors are organizing each department's efforts to sanitize your work spaces. The janitorial staff will be focused on their normal responsibilities as well as enhanced sanitization of the lobby areas/ public spaces. Please check with your Managing Director to learn about your department's plan for daily sanitization.
- Additionally, your department may need to implement a glove-wearing policy for handling mail and documents handled by the public. Please check with your Managing Director for information regarding this.

### **Closures**

The City Manager understands closing the gym will disrupt lifestyles. However, for your safety and the safety of others, this decision has been made and will be enforced. The gym will close at 6 p.m. on Friday. Removal of equipment from the gym is prohibited.

### **Animal Shelter**

If you find yourself in need of some companionship, our animal shelter currently remains open for pet adoptions. You could do yourself and one of our shelter dwellers a lot of good!

### **Public Meetings**

The City Council work session Friday at 8 a.m. will be moved to the Council Chambers.

### **Contact Us**

Remember, if you have questions or concerns, please let us know. We have established a comment form at the end of [this page](#) so that you can send us questions that we can address. Frequently asked questions will be posted on this page as we move through this situation. Talk to your

supervisors, talk to the City Manager. We want to hear from you if you have questions. Additional resources are available on [this page](#).

**DO YOUR PART!**

Don't forget – wash your hands, keep 6 feet away, don't come to work if you are sick. [Follow the CDC guidelines](#) and let's be leaders in "[flattening the curve.](#)"

**Social Distancing Connectivity**

Have some good ideas for easing coronavirus stress or anxiety? Send those to us. We would love to share **suitable for work** ideas! Any other fun Nutshell ideas? Send them [to Mary](#).

We'll be in touch (from at least six feet away.)

Greg