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Mayor Jacobs Issues Statement on Gov. Lee's Announcement Loosening Certain Business Restrictions

KNOXVILLE, *Tenn*.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs issues the following statement on Governor Lee's announcement regarding May 22 openings.

"If Governor Lee and the State Health Department believe it is safe to further loosen restrictions on certain businesses in 89 counties, I see no reason why Knox County can't follow suit. The reality is that tens of thousands of our neighbors are out of work and small businesses are struggling to keep their doors open, so we must keep pushing forward. Knox County is in a great position to do this because we are lower risk than the rest of the State and we continue to trend in the right direction. COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon so we must continue take personal responsibility to protect ourselves and our community by following physical distancing guidelines and other public health recommendations."

The Knoxville-Knox County Reopening Task Force, led by the Knox County Health Department, will meet next week. They will share more information on Phase Two by Thursday, May 21.

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