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City of Milan

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Re: Positive Coronavirus Case in Gibson County

Today we were notified by the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) that a resident of Gibson County has tested positive for the novel coronavirus. The patient has a mild course of illness, is recovering, and currently in quarantine.

This is not unexpected. Your local and county leaders and officials have been preparing for and expecting this for weeks. We are coordinating with the TDH and our local healthcare community to make sure all Gibson County residents are protected.

The worst thing we can do during trying times like this is panic, and lose faith. It is important to remember that the vast majority of patients that contract this virus have a mild course of illness and recover quickly. If you are ill with respiratory symptoms, it is very important that you call your doctor first. Do not go to the Emergency Department or to your physician without calling first. We all have to work together to make sure our healthcare community is not overwhelmed.

Here are some things you can do to help: Keep your hands clean and continue to practice social distancing. If you are feeling bad, stay at home. Be mindful of, and take special care of the elderly. They need to be staying at home as much as possible, and we need to support them and keep them safe. People over the age of 65 and those with prior illness are at the greatest risk. Take care of children – help them remain positive and practicing these same safety measures. Work hard to continue to support (be smart, be creative) local businesses and their families, as this time will be especially difficult for them.

We will continue to closely monitor this evolving situation and will adapt our response as appropriate. We have planned over the past days and weeks, with expert guidance, for this scenario. Over the next several weeks we might all suffer some inconveniences. I have always admired the compassion and faith of our great county, and know in the end we will be stronger as a community as this passes. And we know, this too shall pass.

Again, I want to emphasize, this was not unexpected. We are prepared and are working closely with the TDH and all agencies of government at all levels to minimize the impact on the residents of Gibson County. That has been and continues to be our primary concern. We will get through this together.

Individuals with specific questions about the coronavirus can call the TDH Information Line at 877-857-2945. If you need me, or if I can provide any measure of support to you, please contact our office at 731-686-3301. I will work hard to keep you informed, advised, and most importantly, safe.

Mayor BW Beasley