



November 19, 2020

To Mayor Scott Conger, Mayor Jimmy Harris, Kim Tedford:

I continue to be perplexed by the reticence of any government entity to enlist the help of the private sector. To contend that the Madison County Health Department or West Tennessee Health Care represent the private sector is being disingenuous at best. I am not anti-voluntary masks but we need to realize, as surgeons have long known, that unless they are worn perfectly in a controlled environment, they are of little use. This controlled study from Denmark reinforces that.

Instead of continually reciting numbers of “new cases” which in reality only represent positive tests, it would be infinitely more helpful to actually lead the citizenry instead of trying to scare the population into submission. There are actual, tangible things that can be done – that should have been instituted long ago – if you are really concerned about the individual patient and not just numbers. Additionally, there are things that have been done and are currently being done that, when looked at objectively, are purely for show and for political correctness.

There are only three possible ways this pandemic can end: the virus mysteriously and miraculously burns out, enough people develop natural (herd) immunity, or immunity is artificially conferred through a viable vaccine. There are no other options.

West Tennessee is full of smart people. More progress could be made if you would consider input from outside your closed circle of advisors so that together we might find solutions that actually work without undue and unnecessary burdens placed on the population.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Hoppers, MD