



City of Leavenworth

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April 27, 2020

Community Members,

As we enter a new week, the final week of April, we approach the impending end of the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" proclamation set to expire in exactly one week from today, on May 4, barring another extension. Then there has been a limited relaxation of home construction rules released just on Friday, followed by a news conference today, in which Governor Inslee is expected to announce relaxation of many outdoor activities, while still subject to the social distancing rules. Then there have been ongoing and increasing "protests" by various groups, and even some elected officials, putting the pressure on to relax the orders and start getting people back to work. The Governor has insisted that such decisions will be driven by the best scientific data, and not by politics. I hope he is able to hang in there and not cave too soon to political pressures. He also did announce the plan to have about 1,500 workers in place to assist with contact tracing by the second week of May. These are people who will contact those who test positive and try to determine all those they have come into contact with to be able to limit the spread of the virus. This is another one of those steps needed to insure that moving forward, we can do so with as much safety as possible.

As I have said many times before, we must move only as we are able to do so with the safety of our residents, our businesses, and our guests in the forefront. We have all done so well to this point, sharing the burdens together, and encouraging one another. And I understand that it is getting harder and harder to do. It is downright depressing, no doubt about it. But we must not let up on our guard before we have all the tools in place to be able to do so wisely and safely. This means we need far more testing to occur. We need to be able to test our entire workforce to know with some certainty what our baseline is, and to not begin with infectious hosts. I would say that would be the very definition of bad hospitality, wouldn't you? That is not what Leavenworth is about. We want to continue the long tradition we have of being great hosts to our guests. We can't do that if we don't even know if we would be inviting them here only to share the virus with them. We must know that with some level of confidence in order to know where we stand as a community.

Then there are all the precautions we will need to take to also ensure that anyone who comes is not going to share the virus with us. The "new normal" will certainly call for masks, extra sanitation, continued social distancing, screening for temperatures. That is not going to be easy. In fact, it will be downright hard. But it will be necessary if we are going to make sure all the hard work we have done together, to this point, does not go for naught.

These emails are getting fairly repetitious. I apologize for the redundancy. But I also know what I am seeing and hearing that leads me to continue to hammer on the same points. We only have one chance to do this the right way. Let's make sure we take the time to get this right. For all of us! Stay home, stay safe!



Carl J. Florea, Mayor

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