



**Carl J. Florea**  
Office of the Mayor  
City of Leavenworth

June 16, 2020

Community Members,

It feels like maybe we will have a summer after all! I know that people are returning to “normal” and taking trips once again. Let’s return to a “new normal” and not just rush back to what we knew and were comfortable with before this pandemic. The new normal will be one where we embrace masks when in stores or close proximity to those outside our household. Last weekend we saw an increase in visitors. That trend will most likely continue. We still have a lot of work to do to instill in our guests the need for safety as we enjoy Leavenworth.

People are all very familiar with the fact that our county has been able to move out of Phase 1 and our businesses have begun to reopen. What not as many people know is that the movement into Phase 1.5 or 1.9 was conditioned upon the Chelan Douglas Health District gathering a few leaders from the two counties and having a conference call with the top health officer for the State, John Wiesman, and discussing a plan to get the public to increase the use of masks in our two-county area. I have been asked to be in on that conference call and I gladly accepted. This is seen as the single most important step we can take to move this “opening up” forward. And the opposite is also true. If we fail to have an adequate plan, or the plan has less than adequate results, we may be forced to take a step backwards. I know, nobody wants to go backwards, and we all want to be healthy.

The City is committed to doing all we can to assist the downtown to return safely to activity. As you probably know, sadly the City had to finally pull the plug on having the pool open this summer. That means that our long-time pool manager, Kelley Lemons and Tessa McCormick, would have to be laid off. However, with some creative repurposing, and with their enthusiastic concurrence, we will keep them employed and have them working with us downtown as ambassadors, facilitators, and educators. We look forward to having them helping us support these efforts.

In addition, the Chamber of Commerce will be putting down some “social distancing” reminder stickers downtown, and we will use their Bavarian “Pointy People” stands to encourage our guests to wear masks. I would encourage all of you to share your ideas as to how we can plan to encourage all of us to wear masks. How can we incentivize the use of masks? How can we make it the new “fun” thing or “cool” thing to do while here? I want to offer some new and different ideas when I talk with Dr. Wiesman on Friday. I want some surefire ways to keep us on track to keep opening up. Share them with me. No idea is a bad idea! We are all in this together. So, let’s stay together! Be safe and stay healthy!



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