



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

November 5, 2020

Community Members,

You are hopefully aware that we have done reasonably well containing and controlling our COVID cases in the Leavenworth area. Once again, this is only due to the fact that we have had great compliance with the protocols that are “best practice”. That means that we have been paying attention to our need for social distancing, wearing masks, and hand washing. Those are truly the very best we can do short of having a vaccine.

While we can take some pride in how we have been doing, it is also true that there are many facts that should alarm us. These facts are that our state is experiencing an increase in the number of cases statewide. While not rising as quickly as other states, it is nevertheless alarming. With this as a reality, it would follow that more people traveling to Leavenworth will be bringing the virus with them. And while the number of cases per 100,000 residents for our own county has remained flat, it still is at a pretty high level. Indeed, while our cases have not been rising significantly, we were already at one of the highest per capita rates in the state. And despite our efforts, we have not been able to bring that rate down significantly. In addition, we are entering the season when more activities will be taking place indoors where the virus can more easily spread. And another fact that should give us pause is the fact that we are entering the annual flu season. The flu has very similar symptoms, and will complicate efforts to control and contain the coronavirus. As in previous years, the flu vaccine will be available through various medical establishments.

I mention this only to encourage all of us to double-down on our efforts to stay safe. We all know this whole thing has gotten very old and we are tired. But, as I have heard from others, “we may be tired of this disease, but this disease is not yet tired of us”. None of us want to go backwards, as is now happening in many countries throughout the world that had been doing well. The only way we can continue to move forward is to keep our guard up. Consistently wear a mask when out and about in public places, especially when indoors. Continue to wash our hands thoroughly and often. Limit our gatherings of family and friends, both in size and also frequency. We are entering the holiday season when large gatherings are something many of us anticipate with joy. Our family normally gathers with extended family from all over Washington, Oregon and Idaho. That won’t be the case this year. Our small gathering at Thanksgiving will still be a time to give thanks. Thankful that we have remained healthy. Thankful for all the efforts of our frontline health care workers and public health officials. Thankful that we live in a community that does care for one another and has done well showing this by their actions. Thankful for the compassion that has been demonstrated by so many in this time of stress and struggle for so many.

Let’s not let up. Let’s keep our positive momentum going. Let’s keep sanitizing surfaces used by others. Let’s get our flu shots to give us one more line of defense. Let’s continue to do all the things that will help us keep our momentum moving forward. Follow the lead of the medical community. As always, stay safe!



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