



City of Leavenworth

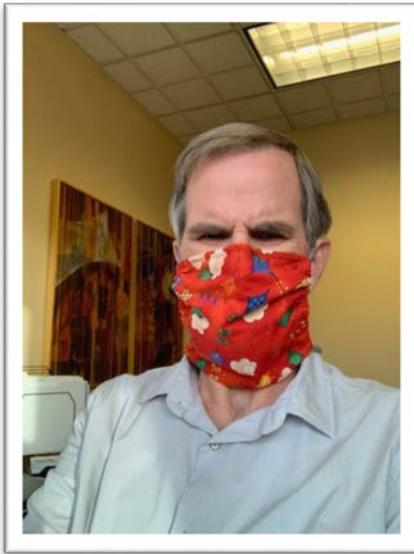
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April 6, 2020

Community Members,

We have new information from the CDC on just what protections we should be taking when going out in public. For quite a while, it was not recommended that we wear a mask when in public. (My sons and I had a hot discussion on this very topic during our online gaming session over a week ago). This was because it was felt that any small benefit would be outweighed by the false sense of security that might come with wearing a mask. And it was felt that masks should be kept for those most at risk, our first responders, and medical personnel. However, new information has come to light that this disease most likely can be spread before there are any visible symptoms. So, just like so much that has occurred during our time dealing with this new virus, we are getting updated and new requirements rolling out as we get a better understanding of this disease and how it works.



So, now we are being asked to wear simple cloth masks when going into public spaces. You probably don't need to wear one when you are out on a walk by yourself or with your family. However, when you enter any public spaces where the general public is present in any numbers, the recommendation is that you wear a cloth mask. It can be as simple as a bandana around your nose and mouth. Does it feel strange? Yes, it does! Is it flattering? Hardly! I can't help it, but when I wear mine, seen here, and made by my wife, Debbie, I feel like I should be holding up the store, not buying from it. Wild west! It is not comfortable, it is, at best, a bit silly. BUT, it is the best practice from what we now know. So, I will do my part and wear this mask when doing the necessary shopping, etc. Yet, I must say, it does not seem to have been largely embraced by the public yet. When my wife and I went out yesterday, (to Wenatchee), we were one of the very few who had

any covering over their mouths and noses. I am hoping that this is just because that recommendation is so new, and not because of a stubborn streak that resists doing something because we are being told to do it. It's really a small thing we can do. So why not?

Let's be clear, however, that this does not take away from the requirement that we practice social distancing. This does not mean we can go back to shopping any time and any place. We must still keep our excursions out into public to a minimum. It's just that when we do go, let's show our care and concern for one another by taking one more step. Let's go incognito, disguised by a protective piece of cloth. Oh, and if you don't have one, I think there are area seamstresses who would make one available to you. Let me know and I will forward your request on to one of your great community members who is sewing away! Thank you for caring enough to look silly! Take care and stay safe!



Carl J. Florea, Mayor

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