VILLAGE OF GOUVERNEUR COVID-19 PANDEMIC
UPDATE AS OF NOON, TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

Well Gouverneur here we are on week fifty-seven of this dreadful pandemic. Remember the following seven pillars:

1. **WEAR A MASK**
2. **SOCIAL (PHYSICAL) DISTANCE**
3. **WASH YOUR HANDS**
4. **STAY HOME IF SICK**
5. **STAY LOCAL**
6. **GET TESTED**
7. **GET VACCINATED (when available to you)**

In breaking news pertaining to vaccinations early this morning the federal agencies of FDA and CDC announced a recommendation to put the Johnson and Johnson vaccine on pause and further announced that all federal sites would suspend Johnson and Johnson inoculations immediately. Later this morning the NYS Department of Health announced that they would follow the recommendations of the FDA and CDC. Our citizens here in Northern New York who are already scheduled to receive the Johnson and Johnson vaccine can keep their appointments but will be offered a Pfizer vaccination (two shots) as a voluntary alternate. In other news pertaining to the Johnson and Johnson vaccine our state was scheduled to be on an 85% reduction due to a Johnson and Johnson manufacturing malfunction at its Baltimore facility. This breaking news will have the most effect on SYNY canton and Potsdam campuses as they were scheduled to received 1500 Johnson and Johnson vaccines each in the next two weeks. Remember this may only be temporary but none the less our local Department of Health and other political leaders here in the north country including myself are recommending as many people as

possible and as soon as possible be vaccinated by utilizing the other two approved vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna. To register you can get on the NYS site - **am I eligible** and if this becomes difficult you can also call one of the following numbers where you will be able to talk to a person and schedule your vaccination. The number is **1-833-NYS-4VAX OR 1-833-697-4829.**

In Global news on the other side of the world the country of India seems to be the most troubling with billions of population and a very minimal amount of vaccines available. Closer to home our neighbors to the north Canada continues to see an uptick in positive cases. In fact in the hospital arena the Canadian ICU's are at near if not full capacity and in some cases adult patients are being treated in children's hospitals. Our country has pledged to help our Canadian friends but with the Johnson and Johnson curtailment this further hinders the worldwide availability of approved vaccines. Unfortunately our Canadian neighbor has not provided proper resources for the manufacturing of vaccines for their citizens. Prime Minister Trudeau has pledged to correct this but for the present it is a little late. Nevertheless we wish our neighbors and in some cases friends and relatives all the best during this stressful pandemic era.

In National news the state of Michigan is certainly in a most troubling situation dealing with this pandemic with hospital capacity at a very high level and a potential shutdown may be looming very soon. Countrywide there is a current trend in which positive cases are escalating in our younger citizens. On a positive note Pfizer has a current study of the effects of their vaccine on 12-15 year olds.

Here in NYS School guidelines were released in the past few days concerning the so called social distancing being reduced from 6 ft. to 3 ft. for school students and their instructors. While this is fine it still does present a limited school transportation challenge. In other state news our various pharmacies have been afforded more flexibility by administering vaccines to all of our people 16 and up if it's a Pfizer vaccine or 18 and up with Moderna. As previously mentioned Johnson and Johnson is on pause for now. Statewide at higher education campuses both Syracuse University and Cornell have declared a mandatory policy of vaccinations for all students and staff effective for this year's fall semester. It would seem a Doctor's note or a religious reason would be the only two waiver possibilities. However our NYS SUNY system will not be implementing this policy and while they strongly recommend vaccinations for all it will still be on a volunteer basis for now.

From the Control Room Board we continue to prioritize as many vaccines to as many of our citizens as possible. Our Northern New York region which leads the state in vaccination rates stands at 45 percent of eligible citizens receiving at least one inoculation and 34 percent of our citizens fully vaccinated.

The St. Lawrence County Legislature did not meet last night so I do not have a current local Department of Health report. However for the past few weeks it is obvious that the majority of positive cases countywide are centered in the Canton/Potsdam areas. We are particularly concerned with the possibility that SUNY Potsdam positive cases may be of the so called UK variant.

COUNTYWIDE DATA
FOR THE PAST WEEK
TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021 – MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021

NEW CASES - +163 = 6897 TOTAL (vs 130 new cases a week ago)

RECOVERED CASES - +132 = TOTAL 6614 (vs 59 a week ago)

HOSPITALIZATIONS - -1 = 4 CURRENTLY

DEATHS - 0 = still at 94 TOTAL

COVID TESTS ADMINISTERED - +9,897 = 283,047 TOTAL (vs 9,813 a week ago)

ACTIVE CASES - +31 = 189 CURRENTLY

Here in Gouverneur we have had three new positive cases in the past week which stands at a total of 612 currently. At present our isolations now total three versus only one the week before last. It also should be noted that here in the Greater Gouverneur area and/or school district area our positivity rate remains relatively low compared to other areas of the County and in particular the Greater Potsdam/Canton area.

Let's remember my friends please continue to practice the seven pillars as much as practical and in particular for pillar number 7 please take the time to get vaccinated and the sooner the better for yourself, your family and the Greater Gouverneur area. Be well and God Bless.

Submitted by Mayor Ron McDougall