

**VILLAGE OF GOUVERNEUR COVID-19 PANDEMIC
UPDATE AS OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020**

Well Gouverneur here we are on week thirty one of the NYS Emergency Declaration when our whole state went on PAUSE--let me once again remind you of the following so called five pillars of community response that best protects our community against this COVID-19 pandemic per our St. Lawrence County infectious disease expert Dr. Andrew Williams:

- 1. WEAR A MASK**
- 2. SOCIAL (PHYSICAL) DISTANCE**
- 3. WASH YOUR HANDS**
- 4. STAY HOME IF SICK**
- 5. STAY LOCAL**

As you read today's Tribune (October 16, 2020) we are in Phase 4 of the so called pandemic COVID-19 pause which is statewide and a status which I do not foresee changing in the near future.

In other national and global news we have now surpassed more than 215,000 COVID deaths and over 7.8 million positive cases in our country. Global deaths stand at 1.1 million. Countrywide the positive cases per day are up 11% in the past week. 29 of our 50 states have seen an increase with the highest being in the Midwest region. In addition the state of Nevada has the first countrywide case of a reinfection. On a positive note our US military joint chiefs of staff are returning to duty from a self-quarantine status. As a result of the aforementioned percentage increase our country is recording nearly 50,000 per day positive COVID-19 cases.

In State news, the Cuomo Administration has identified mass gatherings in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. These mass gathering equal infections which equal clusters which amount to a community spread. New York State is on day 228 as of today of this terrible pandemic. Last week on October 7th a one day record was set with nearly 146,000 tests administered. As of today over 12 million tests for COVID-19 have been taken by our citizens. Statewide the average of positive tests for the past week is just over 1 percent. On Friday, October 9th the Governor announced 400,000 so called rapid testing supplies would be distributed statewide. This is an initial allotment and more supplies will be available on an as needed basis. As of this afternoon three more states those being Ohio, Michigan and Virginia have been added to the quarantine list for a grand total of 38 and no states were removed. In other State news, NYCOM which is the association of New York State Mayors, held a news conference in Syracuse last week in addition to a business meeting in Skaneateles and as a result of a confirmed case suffered by Binghamton Mayor Richard David now many Mayors find themselves in quarantine. If you are wondering, I did not attend nor would I have considered attending a gathering of this nature at this time.

In the North Country region the positive test rate have been averaging 0.3 for the past several days. The most recent troubled area is at a public housing authority building in Port Henry which is located within Essex County. Here in Gouverneur school is up a going today and as one of our village employees said "Thank the Lord for that". As most of you know the original school schedule was a three day holiday weekend which turned in to a four day as school was closed on Friday. During this time the school went through a deep disinfection cleaning due to potential COVID exposures. In addition, Gouverneur Central and other public schools are having to deal with additional stringent testing time lines. It also should be noted that a neighboring school Harrisville

Central was evacuated late last week due to an alleged COVID-19 related threat.

In Countywide news, the legislators did not meet last night due to the Columbus Day holiday. However, it should be noted that the St. Lawrence County Planning Office has still been coordinating the census process which had a tentative new date of expiration of October 31st. However due to a Supreme Court decision of today (October 13, 2020) the census gathering process will end Thursday, October 15th. The County Department of Health has put out some tentative guidelines on trick or treating most notably Dr. Dana McQuire of the SLC Health Department along with many other health officials has deemed door to door trick or treating as a high risk of activity. State guidelines in this regard have not been distributed as of yet. The Village Board will discuss this at the upcoming October 20th Village board meeting. The Gouverneur Trunk or Treat activity which was posted on Facebook and scheduled for October 23rd has been cancelled for this year along with the Town of Fowler Trunk or Treat activity which was previously announced by the Fowler Town Council.

In downtown Gouverneur you may have noticed that the breast cancer banners are on display thanks to our Department of Public Works. October is national breast cancer month. If you remember our annual breast cancer walk held in May was cancelled for this year. As a result the Breast Cancer committee has scheduled a so called virtual walk. Your first step to take part in this very important activity for Northern New York is to go to www.gouverneurbreastcancer.com.

Here locally there have been 10 positive cases here in St. Lawrence County during the past seven days for a total of 341. 326 have been released. There are currently 11 active cases none of which are hospitalized. Unfortunately for St. Lawrence County 4 citizens has lost

Unfortunately two of the 10 county cases in the past week were here in Gouverneur which were the first cases posted in this township in the past several months. There was one each on Thursday, October 8th and one Friday, October 9th. The other cases were 6 in Potsdam, along with one each in the Towns of Brasher and Norfolk.

Well Gouverneur I know this is not necessarily a positive report but for our population based on a per capita basis five is very good. Neither of these positives were hospitalized and one of the two is out of quarantine. Yes things could be better but they also could be worse as I mentioned previously school is open today and our other government municipal agencies continue to be open and operate. Until next week stay safe, keep a stiff upper lip and wear those masks. God Bless America and each one of you as well.

Submitted by Mayor Ron McDougall