

MAYOR'S UPDATE – FACEBOOK LIVE

April 6, 2020

OPENING

Good evening. Thanks for joining me.

Yesterday marked the first day of Holy Week for those who celebrate Easter. Passover will commence on Wednesday at sundown, followed by Holy Week next week for Greek Orthodox, and then Ramadan on April 23. For those who are part of communities of faith whose traditions are rooted in the act of coming together, these weeks will be a challenge. All houses of worship should remain closed.

In case you are wondering about Easter Egg hunts, these too will have to wait until next year unless you are having one for persons in your immediate household only. Now is a good time to remind you that the Governor's stay at home order is still in effect.

Even if you don't care about the Governor's order, I hope you care enough about your family that you will stay home. Now is not the time to ease up on social distancing.

According to Dr. Levine, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Health, there is NO evidence that the virus is slowing down here in Pennsylvania. We should expect to see cases grow at higher rates, and that's exactly what happened over the weekend.

Total cases as of today in Lancaster County: 408; Deaths: 11. This is up from 232 cases and 5 deaths on Friday. Again, this information is for Lancaster County and is updated daily at noon by the PA Department of Health. There is not Lancaster City specific data.

Stay home and save lives.

UPDATES

1. For those who would prefer to watch this in Spanish, Milzy Carrasco will be doing a Facebook Live in Spanish at 6 p.m. on the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement page. We'll put a link to that page in the comments. Also, understanding that some of our residents have limited bandwidth or data, we will start posting written comments in English and Spanish on our website afterwards.

www.facebook.com/NeighborhoodEngagement

2. New Dates in PA: The State has extended the dates for the following:
 - a. Primary elections: new date June 2, 2020
 - b. Driver License expiring before April 30 new date May 31, 2020
 - c. Real ID deadline extended to October 1, 2021
 - d. Income Tax extension date July 15, 2020

3. The COVID-19 pandemic may be stressful and incredibly frightening for some people. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause anxiety. The PA Department of Health and Human Services has created a Helpline for dealing with anxiety. The number to call is 1-855-284-2494. For TTY, dial 724-631-5600. It will be staffed around the clock.
4. Over the weekend, Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine signed an order outlining building maintenance and cleaning guidelines for businesses still permitted to continue in-person, physical operations under the Governor's stay-at-home order. If you are among the businesses still operating, please consult these new guidelines to keep everyone safe.

www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200405-SOH-Building-Safety-Measures.pdf

5. On Tuesday, April 7 from 3 to 4:30 p.m., Assets will be hosting a webinar in Spanish about financing opportunities for business owners who have been affected by COVID-19, led by Wilma Bonilla, Specialist in Economic Relations and Economic Development. Topics covered will include the Economic Injury Disaster Loan, Paycheck Protection Program and Small Business Relief Program. Participants should register on Eventbrite. Once registered, you'll receive an email from Eventbrite. To join the seminar, on Tuesday at 3 p.m. click the "Join Now" link in that email and log in. We will post the link to the Eventbrite in the comments. Assets is working on an English webinar as well.

www.eventbrite.com/e/assets-webinar-en-espanol-oportunidades-de-financiamiento-tickets-101928272206

6. Coming up this week Team Love Your Block is working on a new "neighbor grant" opportunity to support the work so many of you are doing. We will announce the program this Friday at Five on my FB live. I know the team is excited to share with everyone.

CALL TO ACTION

Calling all creatives to apply for the Census Video Prize Challenge! Census Accelerate has launched a first-of-its-kind Video Prize Challenge for partners and content creators to help get the word out about the 2020 Census for a chance to win up to \$30,000. This open call for content is designed to help educate and motivate individuals so that they understand why it's critical to complete the 2020 Census — from getting the funding their community needs, to representation in congress. The goal of this challenge is to reach hard-to-count communities with engaging and informative content. Submission period is open through April 17th at 11:59pm EST and winners will be announced in May. This is an excellent opportunity to be creative, civically engaged and make sure your community is counted. Please see FAQ at <https://accelerate.census.gov/video-challenge/> or contact census.accelerate@census.gov if you have any questions.

CLOSING

It is not lost on me, and likely all of you watching, that this is affecting us all differently.

For some people, this is a gift of time. Time to do the things that you love, with the ones you love

For some people this is a slog — day in and day out, missing friends and family. Unable to work and suffering from a kind of cabin fever that is not going to melt away like snow.

For some people this is terrifying — every day is a chance that you could be exposed to COVID-19 and potentially expose your colleagues, your family, and the people you are serving.

For some people things weren't good before, and now they are worse, especially when it comes to paying the bills and putting food on the table.

For some people, home is not a happy place.

For some people, there is a slow burn of anxiety and dis-ease just under the surface.

For some people, this is a time of mourning -- the loss of life, a dream dashed, a long-awaited event postponed or cancelled.

There is an achiness for normal.

What a few months ago we might have called monotonous or boring, we crave.

Back then, we had some level of assurance that each day would follow the next, like the one before it. We'd get up and go to work and school. We'd run our errands. We'd make plans. We'd live our lives.

Now we don't have those same assurances. And in the face of this uncertainty, I believe we are called to practice kindness by:

- Staying home
- Calling friends and family
- Sending daily texts of encouragement
- Making masks
- Wearing a mask when you must leave the house
- Staying six feet apart from anyone that does not live in your house
- Reducing the number of times you leave your house
- Having grace for those around us who are struggling mightily

These are all acts of kindness – and so many other things that you are already doing to support your friends, your family, your neighborhoods, your City. Stay the course. We are in it now, and the only to the other side is to walk through it. How we do that together as a community matters. Let's practice the

kindness of staying home so that we might see more of each other – literally and figuratively – on the other side.

Take heart Lancaster. Stay well. Stay safe. Stay home. You are saving lives.

See you again tomorrow at 5 p.m.