

## **MAYOR'S UPDATE – FACEBOOK LIVE**

*April 9, 2020*

### **OPENING**

Good evening. It's 5 o'clock and here we are. Another day coming to a close, almost to the end of week 4. And a holiday week for many.

Currently, the stay at home order for Pennsylvania extends through April 30. And the Governor today has just ordered all schools to be closed for the remainder of this school year. For our 2020 graduating seniors, I am sorry we will have to wait to celebrate each of you. But we will celebrate when we get on the other side of this crisis!

Additionally, just because schools are closed does not mean food distribution will stop. Food will continue to be distributed next week on Tuesday and Thursday – same locations, same times but two days instead of one.

The decision by Governor Wolf to close schools for the remainder of the year is part of an ongoing, and evolving situation. How this evolves, at this point, is up to each of us.

We've got more weeks to go before we come out of this, so we must redouble our efforts to maintain social distancing practices – most especially staying home, washing hands and taking significant precautions when leaving home – like wearing a mask and ensuring you stay far apart from others when you are in stores. Plan your trips so you're not going to the store more than you need to.

While there are some national reports and models that new cases of infection may be plateauing, this is not necessarily true here in Lancaster. We know that different communities are hit by COVID-19 at different times. Last week, LNP reported that LGH Penn Medicine believed that we have yet to see our peak here locally. We are hoping to know earlier next week about which models are holding true for what we are seeing here locally.

Data will be especially important. To aid in that effort, Lancaster County Government has launched a dashboard to track data. [Link below](#). This is still a work in progress but right now it includes: number of confirmed cases in the County and State, number of deaths in the County, testing sites in the County, and deaths by municipality. Again, this is evolving as more and more data is made accessible from the Department of Health so stay tuned for more on this.

And speaking of data, today in Lancaster County, we have 596 reported cases as per the State Department of Health, and 32 deaths as per the Lancaster County Coroner.

### **UPDATES**

Lancaster County Cases: 561 and 29 deaths, according to our County Coroner, which is more than the Department of Health is reporting at the moment, given the lag time in reporting.

## TESTING SITE

Yesterday I shared information about the new walk-up testing site at Clipper Stadium. However, we got a lot of questions about who can get tested there, if you needed an order from a doctor, and more. So, I'd like to recap for you:

- The COVID-19 testing site at Clipper Magazine Stadium, 650 N. Prince St, Lancaster, will operate 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, set up for people to walk through, not cars.
- People ages 10 and older, with an order from a health-care provider, will be tested.
- If you have symptoms, it is preferred that you call your doctor to be screened. If you screen positive, the doctor will send the order to the site so when you arrive, you can be screened.
- If you do not have a healthcare provider, you will be screened at the site, and if appropriate, COVID-19 testing will be performed.
- Registration and insurance information is collected at the testing site, no out-of-pocket costs are required.
- The site may shut down site when weather is bad (high winds/lightning), so be mindful of the weather before you go.

## ENCOURAGE LANCASTER

A big part of what makes Lancaster special are our small businesses. And as you know, our businesses are getting hit very, very hard during this time. Almost all have severely curtailed operations, and some have had to close 100% impacting employees and owners alike. There is a new effort to raise funds to support our local Businesses, called Encourage Lancaster. Please check out the link in the comments and support this fund with your dollars.

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/encourage-lancaster-small-business-emergency-fund>

To further support the Encourage Lancaster effort, a variety of organizations are working to help small businesses navigate the byzantine state and federal loan funds that are available and working to establish an additional, local loan pool to assist where state and federal loans cannot. More about this coming next week.

If you are a business tenant or a borrower, please be in communication with your landlord or lenders and negotiate the terms of your lease or loans with them. If you are a Landlord or a Lender – PLEASE do everything you can do be flexible and lenient with your tenants or borrowers during this time so that our small businesses can weather this crisis. At the City, we have deferred all existing enterprise loans for six months unless they elect to continue payments. We ask landlords and lenders doing business in the city to join us.

## CALL TO ACTION

SDoL student artists participated in a contest to design ads promoting participation in the 2020 census. Now YOU can vote on the winners!

<https://sdlancaster.org/news/vote-in-sdols-census-art-contest/>

## CLOSING

Already, many of us already know people who have sickened and died as a result of COVID-19. We are going to know more in the weeks ahead.

Think of someone you know who might be at risk of complications from COVID.

Maybe someone who is battling cancer right now, managing chemotherapy in the midst of COVID-19

Or someone who has asthma.

Someone who is older.

If it were up to you, would you save their life by staying home? By wearing a mask when you go to the grocery store? By washing your hands?

Even though you might not get sick, might not have any symptoms, the research shows that you can in fact transmit the virus.

It is very likely that I am preaching to the choir right now.

If you are joining me today, it is likely you know how serious this crisis is.

Thank you for staying the course, especially as we head into the holiday weekend, when we'll be reminded of how much we are missing family traditions, religious observances, and more.

We cannot let up now. So take heart Lancaster. Your efforts are making a difference.

I'll be joining you again on Monday, April 13 at 5 p.m.