



November 24, 2020

Dear Harding Friend,

As we approach the holidays, I would like to bring you up to speed on COVID-19 in our community. We estimate there are currently eighteen active cases for a total of about 56 since March. I thank all of our Harding residents for the care they have taken and the caution they have exercised over the last few months to keep our case count among the lowest in the state. Not only have you protected yourselves and your family you've protected our first responders and healthcare workers.

Our local first responders are still serving us in a time of great stress. When you call them please be understanding of their safety protocols. We need to keep them safe.

You have probably read that the Governor has recently issued a number of new and revised executed orders, among them rules for Thanksgiving gatherings. Indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people, outdoor gatherings to 150. Meetings of local governments, boards, commissions, committees, and judicial activities are exempt. Worship services, funerals, and such are limited to 25% of capacity but no more than 150. Harding Town Committee meetings and other meetings will continue using the hybrid format. Please check the website for details before you attend.

All gatherings, even in private homes, are to follow the following guidelines issued by the Governor:

- Anyone who attends who doesn't live in the home must quarantine 14 days before the gatherings.

- All attendees must maintain 6 feet of distance.

- No handshakes.

- No hugs or other direct contact.

- Everyone must wear a mask at all times.

- You must provide masks, hand sanitizers and other PPE for guests.

- Use disposable towels, plates, and utensils.

- There should be no shouting, singing, or loud music.

These are guidelines, so you should make of them what you will.

Help For Harding is still active and serving our community. If you need anything, please reach out to Elizabeth Sovolos at helpforharding@gmail.com. You can text or call 862-246-7648. Of course emergencies should be addressed to the Harding Police Department.

Any additional state or federal support for our local businesses is still to be determined and as we learn more we will make sure and let you know.

The State and County are working with Federal authorities on a plan for distribution and inoculation when vaccines are available. We have some preliminary updates on that on the website under the Corona Virus Updates tab. We are not getting a lot of information from the state but we post what we get on the website.

There have been lots of questions about election results. Final results are now posted on the County Clerk's website.

Town Hall, which has never been closed because of the pandemic, remains open to the public for business so please come in if you need anything.

The Harding Township Board of Education meetings are open for in-person attendance and participation electronically. Please see the BOE website for details about their meetings.

As you gather with your families please remember to offer prayers for our country and community, our first responders, and for each other. And let's not forget that we are a blessed people with much to be thankful for.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Yates

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Mayor

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