

Please Read and Consider



On March 20, 2020 the City of Hollister formally joined a broad cross section of our nation and the world in the campaign to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. As a community, elected officials and staff, standing alongside business owners and residents have forged a relationship that has been and still is the element that determines and implements Hollister's response protocol. Our goal remains to keep our community and guests safe and engaged. The challenge is to achieve that goal in its fullest; meaning not only physically healthy and safe but also financially healthy and safe, emotionally healthy and safe and do this in such a manner as to respect individual freedoms and rights.

The ability to achieve this goal and ultimately prevail in overcoming this challenge is to stick together in a cohesive community, collectively striving to meet and overcome weaknesses that permit the virus to spread. We have witnessed the disintegration of that oneness of effort and the division that places individuals, businesses and governments at odds with each other. When that happens the virus wins!

So, let's examine where we've been and then, more to the point, where we're going. For the first 6 to 8 weeks we did a good job of slowing the spread and meeting the physical health of our community, but in many cases, this was at the expense of the financial and emotional health of our community. As we moved to ease restrictions and start to address the total needs of our community, we saw people starting to return to a more pre-COVID lifestyle, leisure travelers from around the country returning to our area and the erosion of the safety protocols that had been in place. The virus has zero tolerance and thus took advantage of a weakness and returned with an even greater frequency. The result of which has been more human suffering and a stepped-up urgency for immediate action from the healthcare and other concerned sectors of our community.

So, let's examine where we're going. Your City of Hollister community is convinced that your physical health, and your financial and emotional health are not mutually exclusive. We can achieve our total goal, but it will take community level commitment and cooperation.

Here's how...

Hand washing and other sanitizing protocols needs to be a routine "top of mind task", embedded in your everyday life and passed along to your family and work groups. This is not only an at home task, this is an at work task and an everywhere task.

Physical distancing is imperative. Whenever practical, stay out of the range of danger. Be respectful of those around you who are trying to keep you healthy by returning the favor. Personal respect for each other is a fundamental expectation in our community.

Finally, face coverings have become a point of conflict to the point that laws are being passed to prosecute those who disregard individual cooperation. Properly used (common sense), face coverings are another tool to lessen the chance for person to person transmission of the virus. We are not asking you to cover because you are compelled to by law, but because you are compelled to out of personal respect for the people around you.

As the Mayor of your community, I am asking for your commitment and cooperation in demonstrating the respect for those around you and those that you depend on for support to strive to achieve our goal of total health for our community. Prove to those who are uncertain, that collective personal responsibility and determination is very powerful and has the potential to prevail in our fight for our community's future total health.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David G. Tate".

David G. Tate Mayor