

A Message from the First Selectman
November 18, 2020
An Update for Residents of the Town of Plainfield

As issues related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the state and our region change I wanted to give you another update on the Town of Plainfield and our actions in response to this situation.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Plainfield has increased to 234 as of last night's report from the State of Connecticut. This means the cases in Town have almost doubled since last month's message!! This is a cumulative number of cases meaning that since the beginning of this pandemic 234 people have tested positive for the Covid virus. It does not mean that there are 234 cases in Plainfield today. This is a huge increase for our community. We all must continue to practice all the safe life habits recommended by the CDC and the Connecticut Department of Health. Like other states, Connecticut, and our region, is seeing a significant increase in the number of diagnosed Covid cases. These case number increases are affecting all aspects of our life, our school system, our ability to gather with our friends and family, travel and carry on our daily activities as we would like to.

The Town Level Covid Response Framework hazard level remains at "red" the highest level and it will take strong efforts by all residents to reduce this categorization. What does this mean? It means that we are not being careful with our use of masks. We are not being careful about social distancing. We are not being careful about social gatherings. We are not following the medical advice that we have been given.

The Governor has rolled back the Guidelines to a level 2.1 from the level 3 that we have enjoyed for some time now. This affects our lives and our businesses but has been done to reduce the spread of the Covid. It is hard to go backward but it is necessary. To be clear, at this time Plainfield WILL NOT be reverting to the stricter Level 2 or 1 guidelines unless directed to by the State of Connecticut. Similarly, we will not be returning to level 3 until the conditions permit that and it has been approved by our State.

In our dealings with our citizens we realize that there some you that refuse to wear a mask or follow social distancing. That certainly is your right, but I encourage all residents, visitors and businesses employees to wear a mask and

follow all recommendations of our medical professionals on the local and national level. Individual businesses do have the right to refuse you entry into their building if they require masks as a means of conducting business. This pandemic is not a political creation, it is a medical situation.

These recommendations are not in place to remove your personal freedoms, but rather to keep you healthy. Follow the advice of your personal care physician and the other trained medical professionals on the local and national level.

We continue to stress these **recommendations** for the Town of Plainfield. They are:

- Limit your trips outside your home and avoid gatherings with non-family (same household) members.
- Agencies and groups should **consider** canceling or postponing any planned public events.
- Postpone or cancel all indoor gatherings.
- Postpone or cancel outdoor activities where mask wearing, and social distancing cannot be maintained.

We need to work better at maintaining health in our own families and households. Without this effort our confirmed Covid-19 cases will continue to rise, and we may be forced to make some very difficult decisions.

We know that there have been significant breakthroughs regarding a vaccine by a couple of research companies announced in the last few days. The storage and delivery of these medicines will be a challenge because of the extreme cold temperatures it must be maintained at. We have provided our input to the State on who we think should receive the vaccine first in our community and a policy on that will be created by the State Department of Health. When it is time for the roll out of this be assured that the Town of Plainfield already has a distribution plan in place for this process. It has been tested several times and is a successful system.

Kevin Cunningham
First Selectman