



# THE CITY OF OXFORD

April 10, 2020

## MAYOR'S UPDATE

Good Friday is often thought of as a somber day. As a Christians, when I reflect on the suffering Jesus endured for our sakes on the cross, we cannot help but be moved. However, it's impossible to think of Good Friday without thinking ahead to the glory of Easter Sunday, when Jesus rose from the dead, conquering sin and death and extending forgiveness to all who believe in him.

The glorious truth of Easter is only possible because of what happened on Good Friday when Jesus fulfilled his Father's plan.

Good Friday is the promise of good things to come.

I firmly believe good things are to come for our community. I am encouraged by the report of only a few new positive cases in Lafayette County as of this morning. Lafayette County has 28 confirmed cases of Covid-19. This number has grown by 7 new cases in the past 7 days.

As I've mentioned before, we know this is not a complete number as testing was not widely available until the past week or so and we also know that students who are testing positive in Oxford and living here now, are reported as positive cases in their hometowns.

I have been asked repeatedly about the number of tests that are being done versus the number of positive cases being seen – MS Dept of Health only provides us with the number of positive cases. We do not receive information about the number of tests processed. We also do not receive information regarding the people who have tested positive.

This week the CDC and the MS Department of Health recommends that all residents wear cloth masks when leaving home to perform essential functions such as grocery shopping and filling prescriptions. prevent spread of the virus. The CDC is not

recommending the use of medical grade or surgical grade masks which should be saved for our medical professionals and first responders.

The best protection is still staying at home when possible and limiting travel outside of our homes.

It has been brought to my attention by Oxford Police Department officers who have been assisting citizens during the grocery store senior shopping hours that many citizens who are not senior citizens are shopping during these established times. If you are not a senior citizen and can go another time to secure your groceries, please do. It is so critical that we protect those most vulnerable in our community.

And speaking of grocery shopping, I would encourage you to please abide by the one buggy-one person rule. We are still seeing families shop together. If at all possible, please leave children at home when you grocery shop. Please travel alone to do your shopping and please limit the number of times you shop during the week.

Earlier today during the President's press conference, Dr. Fauci said, "We are seeing encouraging signs but we haven't reached the peak yet. This is not the time to be pulling back on our efforts at all."

For our success to continue in keeping our number of positive cases manageable for our healthcare system, we must all do our part. We must all social distance. Even amongst our neighbors – we must social distance.

It is interesting and frightening to consider the math of how quickly an infected person transmits the virus. Consider this: symptoms of COVID-19 develop an average of five days after infection. During that time, the virus is transmitted, although we don't know how easily. If an infected person transmits the virus to 2.5 other people, and those people each transmit to 2.5 more people, and so on, within 30 days, 406 people would be infected.

The only way to curb the spread is through stringent social distancing.

Every person who does not truly need to be out, interacting with other people, needs to stay home, even if you feel well, even if you are at low risk. This is not a drill. This is not an overreaction. Even if you think you are invincible, do it for the people you love, for the people who are vulnerable, for your neighbors. As disruptive, depressing, and difficult as staying home is, the alternative is worse.

We understand that churches across our community are having drive-in services on Sunday. When you see friends and family that you haven't seen in the past few weeks it is going to be hard not to jump out of the car to hug them. Please do not. We want people to be able to worship in their cars but it is so important that you do not exit your vehicle.

Speaking of Easter – there have been several Easter bunny sightings across our community. Follow our social media to find if you might catch a glimpse of the Easter bunny from your front porch.

Please be weather aware on Sunday. We are getting reports that severe weather is a strong possibility for Lafayette County on Sunday.

Enjoy this beautiful day.

Good Friday is followed by Easter Sunday and gives us hope. There is hope.

We are stronger together.