

Dear Haworth Neighbor:

This has been a difficult week. The bad news is that there has been an uptick of newly diagnosed positive COVID cases, in the State, the County, and, most importantly, in Haworth. We have been notified by the County of three new positive cases this past week. This is more cases in one week than we had experienced cumulatively in the past two months and brings our total number of cases since March to 42. While we hope that this is just quirk and that the number of new positives in the coming weeks will fall back to previous low levels, we cannot afford as a community to leave this to chance.

First, we must ask ourselves: “Why has this happened? What changed?” While there is no definitive proof of cause, if we assume our experience is similar to that in the rest of the State – and in other states that have had significant surges – there seem to be two highly probable explanations:

- The general relaxing of concern by individuals that they might contract the virus: With the opening of outdoor dining, beaches, retail stores, and other facilities, it is easy and tempting to assume that the danger has passed. Couple this with the understandable desire to enjoy the summer and take regular vacations and with the fatigue and impatience that comes with isolation, wearing masks, maintaining distance, and so on, and we have a perfect recipe for letting our collective guard down. We can observe this in the absence of masks with groups walking together, gathering for barbecues, and other group activities;
- The shift noted nationwide in the population most likely to be providing new cases: While concern has always been for the vulnerability of seniors, there is emerging evidence that the disease has spread rapidly to younger segments, especially teenagers and young adults. It is increasingly common, as we near the opening of the school year and the reality of young people with time on their hands, to see groups of 5 or 6 or more hanging out downtown or clustering closely as a group enjoying each other’s company – with no masks visible.

To the extent that these are valid observations – and we believe that they are – they are easily remediable:

- First, when you go walking or to a friend’s yard – or anywhere where you might encounter others – take your mask and wear it;
- Second, if you have teenagers or young adults at home, make sure that they have and take a mask with them;
- Third, if you are a teenager or young adult – make sure you carry a mask and wear it – we are not asking you not to hangout – that is part of being young – we are asking you to protect yourself and others. Remember that while you may be asymptomatic or contract only a mild infection, you may be a carrier who places your parents or grandparents at risk;
- Fourth, be an example and a support to your friends; don’t be shy about asking or reminding them to take proper protection. .

Patience and discipline are the watchwords for the coming weeks. We all wish this would go away – and it is frustrating – and we are sure some of you are tired of hearing this message

from us. But we all have to understand and dedicate ourselves to playing the long game – to sacrifice in the present to ensure a better future for all. Haworth is depending on you.

UPDATE FROM THE HAWORTH BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH):

The Haworth BOH serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council and the residents of Haworth. The Borough contracts with the Bergen County Department of Health (BCDOH), which serves as the official health agency for the community. The BCDOH is responsible for the management of the COVID-19 virus, including tracking and tracing of confirmed cases. The BCDOH receives all reports of new COVID-19 cases from physicians, hospitals, and testing sites, and then reports the number of confirmed cases to the municipality and to our police on a regular basis. We are not (by law and by HIPPA regulations, which guarantee privacy to individuals), given names, gender or the age of new cases. We are only provided with that day's total numbers.

After a positive COVID-19 result is reported to the county, trained contact tracers will reach out to those who test positive in order to stop the chain of transmission. Those in close contact (less than 6 feet apart for greater than 10 minutes) are at highest risk. To assist in this process, you may reach out to your close contacts, employer or school nurse if you suspect you have COVID or have received a positive result. This can help to expedite containment of the virus and reduce transmission in our community.

The CDC's [3 Key Steps to Take While Waiting for Your COVID-19 Test Result](#) infographic and worksheet is a good resource for how you can help stop the chain of transmission and help your community.

UPDATE FROM THE HAWORTH LIBRARY:

The Haworth Library will open on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning August 4th, from 11 am - 2 pm, with special hours for seniors 10 am - 11am. They will reopen slowly and add more hours gradually. Curbside Pickup service will continue for patrons who don't want to come in.

UPDATE FROM THE HAWORTH SWIM CLUB:

Haworth Swim Club: August-Labor Day memberships are now available! Spend the dog days of summer cooling off with us! Applications can be found on the town [website](#).

UPDATE FROM HAWORTH TENNIS:

Tennis mid season rates go into effect August 1. Please click [here](#) for more information.

UPDATE ON THE BASKETBALL COURTS:

Some residents have inquired as to when the Borough's basketball courts will re-open. Unfortunately, with three new cases in Haworth this past week as noted above, we must pause on any plans to re-open the courts. Basketball features physical exertion, close proximity and physical contact, and it is nearly impossible to practice social distancing while playing. We continue to monitor the situation. Please note that the Borough has no authority or role with regard to the basketball courts on Haworth Public School property.