

## CHCH Morning Live Transcript – June 18, 2020

*Host: Good morning Rob.*

Mayor Burton: Good morning, how are you?

*Host: I'm doing well. How are you, are you ready for tomorrow?*

Mayor Burton: I'm ready, Oakville's ready. In fact we were ready a week before and we're very grateful that the Premier finally recognized that our numbers were super good and we met all the criteria to re-open.

*Host: Because across Halton with the public health unit there's been one new case yesterday. What are the cases like specifically in Oakville?*

Mayor Burton: Oh they are very low especially when you look at two leading indicators. One is deaths and the other is active cases, active cases are incredibly well, it's single digit and deaths I think we've had 3. You do the do the death rate, we're like lowest in the world and so there's nothing but good compliance with the guidance. I want to speak about that, there are there is concern among some people when they see some people who aren't keeping the 2 metre distance and they worry that that's a disaster. But what we need to keep in mind is the public health authorities have advised the 2 metre distance, they haven't required it. Public health has the authority to issue an order to require the distancing. Our Medical Officer of Health in a meeting just yesterday said and I quote: "I am not contemplating issuing an order, enough people are following the advice that we don't need to issue an order." It's important to remember we've all been working on a voluntary basis. The science that I read says that as long as 80% of us are doing so, it's enough to slow down the virus. And we did these restrictions, remember we were told we were doing these restrictions in order to buy time to build healthcare capacity. And in Halton we added massive amounts of health care capacity. We won that race against time and we're ready now so we're looking forward to the reopening. The magic moment is a minute after midnight tonight and I know you might be wondering what about people in Hamilton who might come here? Well I can tell you that my restaurateurs will take their money.

*Host: Okay, what about the people from Toronto or Peel who are not going into Stage 2 tomorrow, are you worried about that?*

Mayor Burton: We'll take their money too and we'll ask them to keep their distance and I myself have adopted what I call "the 3 C's of covid caution". Let's say you accept the idea that we're ready and we can now turn and face the virus. That is the stance of the province and let's say you don't want to face the virus too quickly. What you have to do is avoid crowds, you have to avoid confined spaces and you want to avoid close contact that goes on for an extended period of time, say 15 minutes. And there was a study released just this morning that said that most transmissions happens in homes among

family members and that speaks to that close sustained contact. You're unlikely to get the virus from passing somebody on the sidewalk.

*Host: When you go out, do you wear a mask?*

Mayor Burton: I do, in fact a friend of mine made this beautiful little wheat sheaf themed mask. There it is and I fits me perfectly.

*Host: Very nice*

Mayor Burton: And in fact I'm visiting her and her husband, they run a small dry cleaners in the North Central part of town, we're visiting later today to thank them and see what they're up to now

*Host: At a distance. I want to ask you, we've got about 45 seconds left, how has the virus impacted the town's deficit?*

Mayor Burton: Oakville enjoys a reputation and it's well-deserved for being a very well managed town. And our shortfall is about \$21 million dollars on the year out of about \$350 million dollar operation and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, about 3 weeks ago met with me and other Mayors and he was so sincere and so genuine when he said and I quote: "Look I want you to understand we are going to help you. And so I know other Mayors are worried about how much time has gone by and the help hasn't shown up but I trust Minister Steve Clark and now he's done nothing except delay, to make me doubt him so I refuse to doubt him. I know we can count on him. I think the provincial government has been pretty good throughout all this and I expect, I mean they've helped everybody else. I'm sure they'll help cities avoid a property tax increase

*Host: OK we have to stop you there. So good luck staying up tonight or getting up early tomorrow, enjoy your reopening Mayor Rob Burton from the Town of Oakville nice to chat again.*