



November 3, 2020

Dear Neighbor,

The Caswell County Board of Health is growing increasingly concerned about the local impact of COVID-19.

This is a challenging and uncertain time for us all, complicated by a steady stream of conflicting information and countless barriers to how we work, learn, worship, shop, and how we gather with those we love. Like many of you, we are tired! We are tired of Zoom calls and remote learning and wearing masks. We miss our coworkers, friends, and family members and are eager to return to our pre-COVID routines.

Our community was relatively fortunate in the spring and summer. While present, community transmission was relatively low, with most local cases being related to workplace exposures or congregate living facilities. Most of those folks have fully recovered but, there are many who continue to suffer lingering effects and some who have had their long-term health and quality of life permanently impaired. Sadly, several of our neighbors have died because of COVID-19.

The scientific and medical communities are warning us to brace for things to get worse in the coming months. In recent weeks we have already seen a surge locally. Many of these cases have been traced back to large, private events, but many others have been difficult to trace, making it clear that this virus is active, and spreading, within our community. Area hospitals are seeing an increase in admissions and we must again be mindful of not overwhelming the capacity of those hospital systems.

As we enter November and prepare for the upcoming holidays and winter season, we beg you to do everything in your power to keep yourself, and your neighbors, healthy. Please wear a mask in public to keep your cold/flu/COVID germs to yourself. Please be sure to wash your hands regularly, use hand sanitizer, and keep plenty of distance (at least 6 feet) between yourself and anyone who is not a member of your household.

We know that many folks in our community are suffering under financial strain and other stressors, which can create barriers to good health. We hope you will reach out for help if you need it, and that you will assist others as you can.

The state is also concerned about the growing number of COVID-19 infections in Caswell County and has encouraged us to adopt local ordinances and civil penalties. The Caswell County Board of Health has chosen NOT to take such actions, for many reasons, not the least of which being that we trust our fellow community members to do the right thing. We feel certain that, despite whatever differences we may have, at the end of the day we all want the same thing – life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We're willing to take precautions and wear our masks to protect you and hope that you will be kind enough to do the same for us and the entire Caswell community.

Wishing you and your family good health,

Shannon Moretz, Chair
Caswell County Board of Health