

## Follow the Rules But With Local Mission!

We all want to do our part to make this “virus” go away. I will wear my mask, wash my hands, be sure that our Dealership is cleaned hourly and everything wiped down immediately if necessary. I will stay a safe distance from all not shake hands, hug or give a pat on the back. I will not hoard toilet paper or anything else for that matter. I will not call a meeting in person but will zoom for all that matters. I am all in to be careful and respectful of others. I will let any task that can be completed at home by an employee be done at home if they wish. So, to be clear I am all in on obeying the rules and working to make everyone safe. I have always been a rule follower, just ask my husband, it makes him crazy.

However, there is no evidence that small businesses, gyms and restaurants have had any impact on the spread of the virus, so why shut them down? I can’t change the rules, but WE can change the outcome. PLEASE be intentional in how you spend your dollars. Please BUY LOCAL! If we can’t dine out then please get take out from locally owned restaurants. That is the only way they are going to make it through this year. The Holiday Season is when many businesses make more than 40% of their income, so please be strategic with your gift giving. Call ahead. I bet many businesses will meet you at the door with your purchases. The yoga studio or gym may have to close but I am sure they would love to sell you a gift certificate or membership for a loved one for next year. Share your creative ways to support local online - put social media to GOOD use.

It is not just about, stopping the spread of the virus. It is about saving our local business community (and, no, I am not saying money is more important than lives-read carefully). Businesses are the ones who pay the taxes, fees and bonds that provide for schools, libraries, police and fire protection. Ordering out of state or from big companies exempt from these taxes will not serve our future well.

Guess I should have started by wishing you all a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving....but someone pushed my button....and you got that rant instead! But seriously, please give thanks for all we have and please protect and support those we love!