

September 4, 2020

Snow Hill, like many other communities, has shown a tremendous amount of civility and unity in the face of the challenges that have plagued us all so far this year. The pandemic is still waging war globally, some areas faring better than others. I am grateful that, although our confirmed cases of coronavirus have slowly been increasing, we have not been immobilized by its sting. As of today, the Snow Hill zip code of 21863 has 70 confirmed cases. Worcester County has 872 confirmed cases with 25 confirmed deaths.

Last month, our statewide cases per hundred thousand dropped by 45%. Maryland's positivity rate is down to 3.39%. The hospitalization rate is down more than 77% since it peaked 122 days ago. Tremendous vigilance and safety measures have contributed to these statistics. I urge each and every citizen to continue to do the tedious work of practicing physical distancing whenever possible, constant hand washing or sanitizing, and wearing a mask in every business and outside when physical distancing is not possible.

As of today, Governor Hogan has announced that we will move into Stage 3 of the Maryland Strong Roadmap to Recovery. This progression will enable all businesses to reopen. Retail establishments and places of worship can now operate at 75% capacity. Indoor theaters may open to the public with 50% capacity or not to exceed 100 people. The total number of people allowed in indoor recreation areas may not exceed 50% capacity. Masks must be worn in all public indoor spaces. Businesses must adhere to these orders or they will be subject to closure.

The law empowers local municipalities to make more restrictive decisions based on the need of the locality. As of now, Snow Hill has increased its indoor gatherings to 50 people, not to exceed 50% capacity. Outdoor gatherings have been increased to 100 people but masks must be worn and physical distancing guidelines must be observed. Our playgrounds and basketball courts remain closed. Town-owned facilities are not yet for rent. We will move forward with these parameters and closely monitor cases in Snow Hill to ensure this progression is safe for our citizens.

Wearing masks and physical distancing are both essential requirements in Snow Hill to ensure our safety. Your patience and understanding have been significant. Continue to stay safe and be a good neighbor.

Thank you,

Mayor Simpson