

April 6, 2020

This evening, I opened the Wayne County report, hoping that Allen Park had not experienced another death as a result of COVID-19. We had had no reported deaths since April 1.

Today, however, was not the case and, as I looked at the deaths column, I saw we had 2. I waited for the call from Wayne County for information; a call I have come to dread. The call came and I was told that we had lost an 83 year old African American woman, who passed away at Henry Ford, Detroit, and a 73 year old man, who passed away at Beaumont, Dearborn.

I am saddened for our loss and deeply saddened for the families who have lost their loved ones and the fact that, while they may mourn their passing, they won't be able to celebrate their life until some future date. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time.

You should also know that we had 7 more confirmed cases, today. Yesterday, we had 6, the day before that we had 4.

I am concerned that not all of us are taking this as seriously as we should. There is no reason for panic or undue alarm; there is a reason, however, to follow the guidelines and instructions given by our leaders and, especially, our health officials, and do everything within our power to stop the spread. Keep a safe distance wherever we go and make sure that others give us that space. Limit our contacts to those with whom we reside and caution each and every one of them about proper distancing and hygiene. Do not congregate in groups; ensure that, if you have to go out for food or other items, you and those around you, keep their distance.

Listen to what the doctors and nurses on the front line are saying. There is plenty of first-hand information out there. When they tell you they have never seen anything like this - believe them. They are not lying. Listen to the despair in their voices. And please don't think because you are young and/or healthy you are immune. This disease doesn't care. Yes, older individuals may be more susceptible or those with compromised immune systems, but anyone can get it - anyone. State of Michigan data shows that 40% of confirmed cases have been in individuals between 0 and 49 years of age and 8% of the deaths have been individuals between 20 to 49 years of age.

The less we spread this, the sooner our lives can begin to return to normal.

Please - STAY HOME/STAY HEALTHY/STAY SAFE.

Gail McLeod  
Mayor