



July 15, 2020

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR RICK CROSS:

I want to keep you up to date on issues relating to COVID-19 that impact our community. As you have likely heard, yesterday Governor Cooper made two announcements:

NC Public Schools will be able to open on August 17, operating under a combined in-person and virtual learning approach. Previously, the governor had requested that all school districts in the state prepare 3 scenarios for return to school:

- **Plan A** - All students attend school in school buildings with minimal social distancing, few limitations, and no capacity reduction
- **Plan B** - All students attend school in school buildings with social distancing, and keeping buildings at 50% capacity at all times
- **Plan C** - All students will be strictly in virtual instruction

The state has opted for **Plan B**, and Davie County Schools is currently communicating with families of students about specifics for our county. The school system teams have put together very detailed plans for opening. If you would like additional information, click on this link:

<http://davie.k12.nc.us/district/planning-2020-21-school-year/>

Governor Cooper also announced a **3-week continuation of the current Phase 2 re-opening plan** (which was previously set to expire this Friday, July 17) until August 7. Our state continues to experience increases in numbers of positive cases, hospitalizations, as well as an increased percentage of cases vs. total tests being given. If you would like to review additional details and data regarding our county and state COVID-19 status, click on the following links:

[**Davie County Health Department COVID-19**](#)
[**North Carolina DHHS COVID-19 Response**](#)

During last evening's Town Council Meeting, Council members discussed how pleased we are that our residents and businesses continue to be committed to doing their part to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in our community - Specifically, the adherence to the **3 "W"s**.

As we continue to deal with COVID-19, it will be important to be diligent in our efforts. We are all having to alter our habits and behaviors. Personally, there are times, as I am preparing to go to a public place (store, restaurant, etc), when I will be almost to the entry before realizing that I have left my mask in the car, needing to return to retrieve it. I also sometimes will have a "social-distance lapse" when I momentarily forget about 6' distancing. I am generally mindful when going to stores, restaurants, and other public places. One recent lapse I had occurred while retrieving my mail from our neighborhood kiosk. I absent-mindedly pulled up, got out of my vehicle, and approached the kiosk...where there was a person already retrieving their mail. Fortunately, I caught myself and pulled up short to wait for them to finish. We exchanged brief pleasantries, and acknowledged that this new normal is requiring us to think about things differently. It was a gentle reminder for me to consider those places, like mail kiosk/mail room, for social-distancing/masking. Thanks to everyone across our community for doing your part!

A few other things around town:

- We have made the difficult, but necessary, decision to cancel the remaining events for our 2020 concert series. We will work toward hosting these concerts for 2021.
- If you have traveled on I-40 between Harper Road and Highway 801 since last Friday night, you have undoubtedly noticed the new pedestrian bridge spanning across the highway. This is the planned replacement of the historic Bert's Way pedestrian bridge, which had been a part of Davie

County history for many decades. We will keep you posted on continued progress.

We continue to work with our county and state partners, our local businesses, and you, our residents, to ensure a safe and timely recovery for our community.

For those of you who have reached out to me recently, THANK YOU. I appreciate it. I will be continuing to reach out across our town, and I want to hear from you. You can reach me at rcross@townofbr.com or 336-391-1992.

We are in this together, and together we will emerge stronger.

- Rick Cross

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