



CITY OF LEWISTON

Mark A. Cayer
Mayor

Mayor Mark A. Cayer Update
March 18, 2020

To the Lewiston Community:

The last several weeks have been challenging for the community, city staff, and elected officials. The growing concerns and recommendations around COVID-19 seem to be changing by the hour. At times this can be frustrating, but please know that City administration, department heads, city staff, and your Lewiston elected officials have our community's health and safety as our utmost priority. As a community, we must respond aggressively but prudently. Social distancing is key, and any risks for our community will not be taken lightly.

What Do We Know?

- We know that seniors and residents with pre-existing health conditions are at the greatest risk for serious complications.
- We know that this virus is highly contagious, so we all must take precautions.
- We know that the health system could be overwhelmed should fast-moving spread occur. This could have dire results and is why an aggressive response is needed.
- We know it will truly take a community to make sure we do everything we can to minimize the strain on our health system.

If you're a senior or a person with pre-existing conditions and are concerned for your safety, I urge you to have discussions with family, friends, or contact 211 so that you can become better informed and perhaps better prepared. Our Recreation Division has been charged with checking in on seniors who are active in our senior programs. If you or someone you know would like to be added to our senior contact list, please contact our Recreation Division at (207-513-3005 or jhanken@lewistonmaine.gov), and we will work to keep you updated throughout this public health emergency.

Although the Coronavirus public health concern weighs heavy on us all, we as a community will overcome this by supporting each other and diligently working through concerns.

As Mayor, I have been in regular contact with the Presidents of Central Maine Medical Center and St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. Our city has offered both hospitals any assistance they need to help slow the spread of COVID-19, and we will continue to do so. I want to share how impressed I am with both healthcare facilities and their staffs. They have well-thought-out plans and are working together to address this emergency and serve the residents of our region.

We also cannot ignore the strain being placed on our business community. I want to assure our businesses, big and small, that I am in discussions with our State & Federal delegations, the Lewiston Auburn Metro Chamber, and Lewiston's Economic Development Department. We are all working to identify as many resources as possible to assist employers and employees. Earlier this date, we released a resource sheet of business supports that can be accessed at this link: <https://www.lewistonmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/11042/SupportForBusinessImpactedByPandemic>

REMINDER: At the start of all City Council meetings and School Committee meetings, a community update will be provided. Do not hesitate to contact the Mayor's Office or your city councilor with any questions or concerns (513-3121).

Respectfully,

Mark Cayer
Mayor