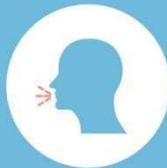


Coronavirus



MAYOR'S APRIL 24, 2020 STATEMENT

The Honorable Joseph M. Corradino

The message for the week is to continue to patiently stay the course. All signs are positive and moving in the right direction. We are at, or just past, the worst of this storm and are now considering the plans for how we achieve a new normal. While we are likely at the beginning of the down-hill side of the mountain, it will take a while longer to reach the bottom. Unfortunately, the disease will be with us well into the future and will be no less dangerous.

Our main goal has been to save lives by protecting the hospital capacity. We are accomplishing this goal more so each week. The hospital capacity in beds, ICU beds and ventilators remain sufficient. The medical data shows that the cases, deaths and hospitalizations are essentially flat or declining over the past week. As we move forward, it is critical that we continue to act as if we individually have the disease and everyone we come into contact also has the disease. Testing has shown that about 60% of the people in our county that have had COVID-19 never had symptoms. Additionally, the number of people who have had it, is about twenty times greater than the total number of positives reported. So, the disease is among us and will be for the foreseeable future, even after we reach the bottom of the hill. More testing sights are coming on line each week. Now, at Hard Rock Stadium, Marlins Park and the South Dade Government Center, anyone over 18 can get a test. Please visit <https://bit.ly/3dVT7v0> for a list of all county-sponsored testing sites.

Remember that the way to continue to protect the hospital capacity, so that everyone who needs critical care, is able to receive critical care, is that we must continue to stay at home and only go out to work in an essential business, or to get groceries and medicine or to exercise. If we do go out for these things, we should stay six feet apart from one another and wear a face covering when distancing is not possible.

We know that everyone's patience is running low. This is physically, emotionally and financially difficult. The good news is that this week we have further advanced the county-wide plans to increase our ability to get out and exercise in the open spaces. Exercise is

essential for our mental and physical health. The approach to allowing this to happen in open spaces has been to consider safe, responsible, and phased strategies that we can monitor. Categories of open spaces being considered include parks, boat ramps and golf courses. At this time, it has been determined that beaches should not be reopened until well into the future. Activities in parks, marinas and golf courses will be limited to individual or family passive activities that are highly regulated and rigorously enforced. The ability to exercise in these open spaces will be timed to when the medical professionals feel it is appropriate and safe. It is critical to practice the same distancing when exercising in open spaces as you do when you are doing it on the sidewalks or when inside an essential business like the grocery store. This a worthy test for how to advance future openings. It comes with a response plan, which relies on local data and data collected from around the world by which we will monitor leading indicators, so we can react very quickly to changes in the trajectory of the disease.

Also, this week, a working group at the county has also been put in place to study the rules for eventually opening other non-essential interior spaces with subgroups including hotels, office spaces, restaurants, manufacturing, retail, museums, small businesses, and real estate. Each subgroup will have medical professionals embedded in them to make recommendations to the industry professionals and review the options. It is realized that none of these places can open without it being medically safe. While there is no set timeline for the opening of these types of places, it has been committed that it will not happen until the medical experts confirm that we are on a downward trend for over two weeks and are at the bottom of the curve.

We know that this disease will be with us through the summer, into the fall and winter and even a year from now or until we have a vaccine. Great care is being taken to make sure that we do not open anything too soon and lose all the advantages we have gained through the sacrifices each of us has made in the last months. We must continue to protect our most vulnerable people as we go forward.

So, this week we need to continue to stay at home, and when out, stay distant and wear a mask. What we are doing is working, we are protecting the capacity of our hospital system, and saving hundreds of lives. We are moving to the downhill side of this mountain. It will just take a bit longer to get to the bottom. We are closer to the new normal each day.

We are getting through this better than expected in the near term and long term.

As always stay safe and please text, call or contact me via email. I can be reached at 305-606-2364 or jcorrado@pinecrest-fl.gov.

Or contact our Village Council and staff anytime at council@pinecrest-fl.gov or manager@pinecrest-fl.gov. We are all working together as a unified team every day.