



July 10th, 2020

Dear Community,

Here's a four-letter word: *MASK*.

Here are two more: *STEP BACK*.

Also these: *WASH HAND. WASH LEFT HAND ALSO.*

Beyond that, in these frustrating times— my four letter word choices deteriorate pretty quickly.

A few weeks ago Lynne and I watched a documentary on the 1918 flu pandemic. With no vaccine available, public health management one hundred years ago included quarantine, good personal hygiene, limitations on public gatherings, and masks. These solutions were applied unevenly.

Here we are—one hundred years later. Our Pine Lake zip code, 30072, has tallied seven COVID positive cases to date. We weren't listed as a zip code until we registered five positives. Four of these cases I wrote about in earlier letters to the community. One case was recently shared openly during a Council meeting (resident is very much recovering). Two cases were identified in the last week. These recent three (of the seven) **WILL** be contact-traced.

We have taken great measures to close, manage, and mitigate viral spread in Pine Lake. Our public facilities, playground, benches, swings, and beach were shut down/removed early in the pandemic and we have not "reopened." Our municipal court returned briefly for three sessions (one of which I attended) with many safety precautions and enhancements in place—yet, after consultation with Judge Wiggins, we are closing again effective 7/17. Lakefront parking has been managed to distance physical encounters and turned into public art space.

On Tuesday July 7 the City Council voted to return to our state of emergency status, given the public health conditions in Georgia. Pine Lake is at the most risk based on what happens **BEYOND** our city limits. We can make selective choices with our Rockbridge businesses; in the majority of cases, local transactions can be made both outside **AND** while wearing a mask. We also have a great amount of public greenspace that affords us physical distancing.

If you are able to continue minimizing trips outside your home, please do. This is not the time for a random accident requiring hospitalization—your friends and family will not be allowed to accompany you. I experienced this very briefly and it's extremely upsetting.

Minimizing your number of encounters helps contact tracers if you DO contract COVID-19. And, of course, it minimizes the likelihood you'll encounter a contact tracer at all.....

If you have been keeping up with the state of the virus and the state of Georgia you know how increasingly serious the public health situation has become. This isn't the "second wave;" this is the building severity of the first wave.

Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Step away from the other guy.

Don't be careless with someone else's life.

Let's continue to keep each other safe,

Your Mayor,

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Pine Lake City Council Meetings - Zoom – second and last Tuesday at 7:00 PM
Conference line: 1 (929) 205 6099
Meeting ID: 813 0156 9377

PL COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.pinelakega.net/Covid19Updates.aspx>
Georgia COVID-19 hotline: 1-844-442-2681.

<https://www.dekalbhealth.net/covid-19dekalb/>

Melanie Hammet
Mayor, City Of Pine Lake GA
"Arts' Natural Habitat"