

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MAYOR GRASSO ON PHASE 5 COVID-19
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
PHASE FIVE BEGINS JUNE 11 - BACK TO THE FUTURE!!!

I had hoped to have been able to send this Mayor's Message long ago – but “better later than never.” We are going back to the future starting this Friday, June 11. Phase Five – relative normalcy – has finally come after more than a year living under the boot of the COVID-19 pandemic. (The Governor's first stay at home order was March 21, 2020.) Here's Phase 5 in summary form:

- Phase 5 removes any remaining capacity limits that may remain in Illinois.
- Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask except where required by federal, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance (airports and airlines, public transportation, congregate living (e.g. nursing homes)).
- We can enjoy traditional conventions, festivals, and large events without capacity restrictions - large gatherings of all sizes can resume across all industry settings, and businesses can stop social distancing in seated venues.

Illinois still recommends face coverings for unvaccinated persons, as well as all individuals on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation; in transportation hubs, such as airports and train and bus stations; in congregate facilities such as correctional facilities, veterans' homes, and long-term care facilities, group homes, and residential facilities; and in healthcare settings. A business might require face coverings or social distancing if it deems appropriate.

Here are some overall recent stats about the impact of COVID-19: there have been 1,385,854 positive cases and 22,974 deaths statewide. Suburban Cook reports 250,446 total cases and 4,429 deaths. DuPage County reports 84,377 total cases with 1,382 deaths. The recovery rate of infected patients is 98%. Illinois has administered 11,708,874 vaccine doses with 76.09 percent of the population, age 65 and older, fully vaccinated. In DuPage County, 93.85 percent of seniors 65 years of age or older fully vaccinated with over 51% of the total eligible population (12+) fully vaccinated. The positivity rate in DuPage County is well under 2% - the lowest it has been since testing began and stats kept. Statewide positivity rate is approaching 1%. However, if you are not vaccinated and have underlying risks, your chances of being infected remain – along with serious illness, long haul persistence, or death. Please consider getting vaccinated.

Burr Ridge followed the metrics for masking, social distancing and limited gatherings – while saving our businesses, especially our restaurants. We reached a balance in Burr Ridge that is enviable and arguably was not attained in many communities elsewhere in Illinois. Thank you all for doing your part to reach these goals. Now, exhale, bask a bit longer in the sunshine, and smile that we have come through all this, so far. But, keep vigilant, keep your family close and keep your friends in your thoughts – and remember those we have lost or remain seriously ill. Reach out to those still homebound too often and for too long.

“It is not the critic who counts, not the man or woman who points out how the strong stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the

woman and man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself or herself in a worthy cause; who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at worst, if she or he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that her or his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat.” - Theodore Roosevelt

BACK TO THE FUTURE!