



Mayor  
**Jerome A. Prince**  
City Of Gary, IN



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Gary Mayor Prince Addresses Spike in COVID-19 Cases**

Since the arrival of the COVID-19 virus in Lake County and Gary, I have consistently described the spread of the virus as unpredictable. We have seen periods of double-digit and single-digit increases in the numbers of new cases. This unpredictability is one reason I have been protective of our local economy, houses of worship and other gathering places.

Today, after two days of single-digit increases, the City of Gary is reporting 26 new positive COVID-19 cases, for a total of 1,118 cases since early March. We do not have enough information to describe the one-day spike as a trend. Unfortunately, we are reporting one new COVID-19 related death, for a total of 66 deaths.

To those who have lost family members, friends and neighbors to this disease, I am sorry for your loss. You have our prayers and condolences. Every loss of life is heartbreaking.

My team and I will continue to closely monitor new cases in Gary, but it is important to note two critical points: more COVID-19 testing is occurring in our city, and more people are being tested, which means *we will have higher numbers of positive COVID-19 cases*; and, *the recovery rate from the COVID-19 virus in Gary is well above 90 percent*. The relatively high recovery rate is a source of encouragement.

Our fight against this public health threat continues. My team and I will continue to closely monitor the rate of new cases in Gary. Also, there are several free testing sites in Gary.

- Through the State of Indiana and Optum, a private testing company, there will be free COVID-19 tests at our City of Gary Health Department, 1145 W. 5th Ave., 8 a.m.- 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- St. Timothy Church, 1600 W. 25th Ave., in Gary, will provide free testing from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. until this Saturday, Aug. 8.
- Methodist Hospital- Northlake, 600 Grant St., continues to provide COVID-19 testing.

We will remain diligent in our fight to protect our community. Please remember, if we remain patient and calm, we will get through this together.

For more information, contact Michael Gonzalez, City of Gary Communications Director, at (219)617-0796 or at [Magonzalez@Gary.gov](mailto:Magonzalez@Gary.gov).

