

COVID-19 Video Update Comments
Jan. 25, 2021

Mayor Jerome A. Prince

Good morning, and thank you for joining me and City of Gary Health Commissioner Dr. Roland Walker for this COVID-19 update.

Soon, we will mark one year in our campaign against the spread of the COVID-19 virus in and around Gary. As we all know, it's been a difficult fight that has taken many twists and turns.

It seems nothing about this challenge that has been predictable, but I'm proud of the way you and our friends, family members and neighbors have faced this truly historic public health crisis.

With the support of the Gary Common Council, we've been able to put in place a mask and face covering ordinance with real enforcement build into the ordinance.

Our houses of worship and small businesses have been mostly compliant with my executive orders, policies and procedures to protect the public.

And, we're moving forward with vaccination plans for our community.

Here in Gary, we have been following Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb's lead and the Indiana State Public Health Department's guidelines in our COVID-19 testing and other areas in our fight against the virus.

Soon, I expect to announce Phase 2 of our vaccination plan. I can't share many details, but we are working with the Archdiocese of Gary to identify a location and roll-out plan for Phase 2.

I also expect we will have other, smaller venues for vaccinations throughout Gary.

I'm also encouraged by our recent COVID-19 infection numbers. Dr. Walker will have the latest updates, but the numbers of new COVID-19 positive infections have been declining steadily for most of this month.

If you want more details on the decline or when and where we are offering COVID-19 testing, visit our City's website at Gary.gov.

In late November, Dr. Walker issued an order that affected certain businesses, specifically bars, nightclubs and social clubs. The order called for those businesses to allow only 50 percent of their capacity, and it called for them to close by midnight.

For now, we are easing the closing time and allowing those businesses to stay open until 1 a.m., though those businesses still must not allow more than 50 percent of their capacity at any time.

We are still calling on houses of worship to limit your in-person attendance to 200 people at a time, and we're still calling on you to practice good social distancing in your services. Hosting your services on-line remains the safest way to hold services.

If you run a retail business or restaurant, please continue to use delivery or curbside services as much as possible. You can still allow up to 50 percent capacity inside your businesses, but all of your employees and your customers must wear face coverings inside your places of business.

Now, I'll ask Dr. Walker to join us with more detailed information.

(Dr. Walker goes to the podium.)

Conclusion

In the past year, there have been times when we were making real progress in our fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and there have been times when things got worse again.

This is an ongoing challenge for all of us. If we continue to use face coverings, practice social distancing techniques and comply with prevention orders and policies in our businesses, schools and houses of worship, we will continue to make progress.

So, let's stay focused and safe. Let's continue to check on our neighbors, family members and friends.

And, please remember, if we stay patient and calm, we will get through this together.