



Special Edition Mayor's Message
Second Emergency Order
March 27, 2020

My conference call today was with Gwinnett County mayors, the County Commission Chair, and the Director of Public Health for our region. Doctor Arona of public health said COVID 19 cases in Georgia have risen to 2001 with 64 deaths, and in Gwinnett they have identified 102 cases with one death. She has done 237 tests from Gwinnett in the last eight days and is just now getting results back from them because the labs that process the tests are overwhelmed. It is taking 7 to 9 days to get test results. There is a reagent shortage worldwide which is needed for test processing. Our Department of Public Health testing site in Lawrenceville is still prioritizing healthcare workers and first responders as well as older or medically fragile patients who are symptomatic.

Two things stood out to me in the conversation. Firstly, 85% of the cases are still mild and recoveries are taking place. But secondly, she emphasized that we are clearly in an acceleration phase, and with such low testing very few people who are contagious are being identified. The incubation stage of this virus is 2 to 14 days, with an average of 5 to 6 days, so carriers are asymptomatic for about a week or two. She is working hard on "surge plans" with our local hospitals which are reporting concerns about limited ventilators, staff and personal protective equipment for them, space, and beds. She has very high praise for the personnel in our local hospitals and that was encouraging to me. She is repetitively requesting resources from the state and federal government agencies but "getting only about 10% of what we order."

In view of the strong and reasonable concerns for impending saturation of hospital facilities, the County Commission Chair and all county mayors have mutually agreed that an increase on the restrictions on our citizens is warranted for community health and safety. We all fervently hope that we can look back on this time in a few months and think that we overreacted, but we are acting now, as we must, on the best medical advice that we can get. To that end, I am issuing another Emergency Order today. Please [read the order here](#) along with [the press release from Chairman Nash](#).

To our most valued Berkeley Lake businesses, I recognize the disorienting difficulties this situation creates for you. We will all support you as much as we possibly can to get through this time in the best possible ways. To that end, I want you to know that I have been in communication with our police Precinct Commander who is increasing patrols in commercial areas where businesses have been temporarily closed. Our City Marshals are patrolling your areas as well. If you have questions, or need any help from our city, please feel free to call City Hall.

To my neighbors, I urge you again to stay home as much as possible. I hope you can focus on this time, not as being stuck in your home, but as being *safe* in your home. That is truly something for which we can all be grateful. I have always believed that perception is nearly everything, so I'm trying to live through these days with the most positive perceptions I can find. Many of you continue to be inspirational to me in this effort.

I thank you for that.

Lisa D. Alter