

Mayor Kurtz's SwiftReach for Jan 7, 2021

HELLO, IT IS JANUARY 7TH. PLEASE STAND BY FOR A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – IT WILL REPEAT ONCE.

GOOD EVENING AND HAPPY NEW YEAR, NEIGHBORS.

THIS IS YOUR MAYOR GREG KURTZ.

THE POST-HOLIDAY SURGE IN COVID CASES IS UPON US.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY NOW **LEADS THE STATE** IN NEW CASES.

TWO YEARS INTO THE PANDEMIC, COVID VACCINES ARE READILY AVAILABLE, **BUT SADLY**, HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY ABOUT 95-PERCENT OF HOSPITALIZATIONS AND DEATHS ARE AMONG THOSE WHO ARE UNVACCINATED.

ADDING TO EVERYONE'S MISERY IS THE FACT THAT THE SPIKE IN CASES HAS CREATED A GAPING STAFFING SHORTAGE AT SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, RESTAURANTS, AND OTHER BUSINESSES.

INDEPENDENCE LOCAL SCHOOLS HAVE INSTITUTED A MASK MANDATE AND ARE TAKING EVERY PRECAUTION TO PROTECT STUDENTS AND STAFF.

ALL CITY EMPLOYEES ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK WHEN INDOORS AND WHEN THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO SOCIAL DISTANCE.

I STRONGLY **URGE EVERYONE** WHO VISITS CITY HALL, THE CIVIC CENTER, OR IS ON CAMPUS TO **MASK-UP**.

REMEMBER, SOME PEOPLE CAN BE INFECTED AND BE ASYMPTOMATIC.

PROTECT YOURSELF, BUT ALSO CONSIDER THE CITY EMPLOYEES WHO COME INTO CONTACT WITH A HIGH VOLUME OF PEOPLE EVERY WEEK.

AS MAYOR, I WANT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THE CHANCES THAT THE CITY COULD BECOME UNDERSTAFFED IF WORKERS TEST POSITIVE AND MUST STAY AT HOME AND ISOLATE.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND THOSE YOU LOVE.

UNTIL NEXT WEEK, BE WELL AND AS ALWAYS, GOD BLESS