

HELLO, IT IS MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>. PLEASE STAND BY FOR A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR. THIS MESSAGE WILL REPEAT ONCE.

**GOOD FRIDAY EVENING. THIS IS YOUR MAYOR GREG KURTZ.**

WHAT A DIFFERENT A YEAR MAKES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR WE WERE LEARNING ABOUT COVID-19, **THE IMPORTANCE** OF SOCIAL DISTANCING, WASHING YOUR HANDS, AND YES, TOILET PAPER.

TODAY, WE HAVE THREE VACCINES AND A TIME-TESTED WAY TO REDUCE OUR RISK TO THE CORONAVIRUS – MASKS.

BECAUSE OF EVERYONE'S HARD WORK, SACRIFICE AND COMPLIANCE TO RESTRICTIONS, OHIO IS CLOSER THAN EVER TO EMERGING FROM THE PANDEMIC.

WITH VICTORY SO CLOSE AT HAND, LET'S STAY FOCUSED ON CROSSING THE FINISH LINE TOGETHER.

GOV. DEWINE ANNOUNCED ON THURSDAY THAT ONCE THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES FALLS BELOW 50 PER EVERY 100,000 OHIOANS FOR TWO WEEKS, HE WILL LIFT ALL – **YES I SAID ALL --COVID RESTRICTIONS.**

HOW CLOSE ARE WE? IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH WE ARE AT 179 NEW CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE. THAT'S A DROP OF MORE THAN 60-PERCENT SINCE THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY.

NEXT WEEK MORE VACCINES AND VACCINATION SITES WILL BE AVAILABLE. ALSO THE AGE OF ELIGIBILITY HAS DROPPED TO 60 AND OLDER.

I AM SO OPTIMISTIC THAT THE CITY HAS ALREADY BEGUN PLANNING FOR THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY, HOME DAYS AND SO MUCH MORE. REMEMBER TO STAY SAFE, STAY POSITIVE AND AS ALWAYS GOD BLESS.