



November 24, 2020

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR RICK CROSS:

As I have said I would do, I want to keep you informed of what is happening with COVID-19 and its impact on our community. Today, I want to share with you a couple of important developments:

- COVID-19 COUNTY ALERT SYSTEM
- NC Executive Order No. 180 - Enhancing the state's Mask Mandate

In my recent messages, I have told you that we continue to see increases in *numbers of COVID-19 cases, positive test results as a percent of total tests, and COVID-19 related hospitalizations* across our state, county, and our own 27006 zip code. Although our state and community are not experiencing the surges like those of many other states, we are seeing significant and steady increases.

As a result, last week, the State of North Carolina (NCDHHS) announced a COVID-19 COUNTY ALERT SYSTEM, which will help pinpoint counties across our state with the highest levels of viral spread, and to offer specific recommendations to bring numbers down. This helps all of us to have a better understanding how to best use our resources - where we need to increase our efforts toward education, testing, and contact-tracing.

This alert system categorizes counties into three tiers. These are indicated by a combination of factors including *positive case rate over the past 14 days, percent of positive tests over the past 14 days, and COVID-19 impacts on hospitals*. The tiers are as follows:

YELLOW: Significant Community Spread (38 counties)

ORANGE: Substantial Community Spread (42 counties)

RED: Critical Community Spread (20 counties)

If you would like more detailed information about how each county's tier was determined, click on [COVID-19 COUNTY ALERT SYSTEM](#).

Davie County is one of twenty counties in our state to be listed as **RED**. This designation for our county is driven by the significant number of positive cases (609.2 cases per 100,000 population) and the high percentage of positive cases vs. testing (12.2%) reported in the past 14 days.

Also, due to ongoing increased negative trends regarding COVID-19, Governor Cooper has issued [Executive Order 180](#). In addition to extending Phase 3 capacity limits and safety requirements through December 11, this order strengthens the existing statewide mask requirement – making it clear that everyone needs to wear a mask whenever they are with someone who is not from the same household. The order adds the mask requirement to several additional settings including:

- Any public indoor space - Even when maintaining 6 feet of distance
- Outdoors - When unable to maintain 6 feet of distance
- Gyms - Even when exercising
- All public and private transportation - When traveling with people outside of the household
- All schools - Public and Private

For more detailed information about the updates to the governor's Executive Order 180, click on [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

We continue to work alongside our county officials and staff to take steps to manage the impact of COVID-19 across our county.

As we move into this holiday season, our continued commitment to the **3Ws** - **W**ear, **W**ait, **W**ash - is the thing that each of us can do to reduce risk and potential impact of COVID-19 in our community.

As I shared in my November 11 message, we have joined with WFBH-Davie Medical Center to have a community Christmas Tree, which has been placed atop the hospital. We will officially light the tree at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, December 1, and will share it with everyone in a virtual event via Facebook Live. Check it out here: [Bermuda Run](#)

[Community Christmas Tree Lighting](#) (note - you must be on Facebook for the link to work).

Remember, you can be part of this community celebration by purchasing a light(s) in honor/memory of a loved one, co-worker, or friend. Click [Community Christmas Tree](#) for information on how you can participate.

Again, thanks to the tenacious “treeo” of Rosanne Peacock, Sharon Reid, and Christy Schafer for making this community event a reality. We are grateful that *BERMUDA RUN CARES* is there with us as we collect donations to support *Family Promise of Davie County* and *Davie Medical Center Family Assistance Fund*. And special appreciation goes to Davie Medical Center for hosting our tree at their wonderful facility.

Thanksgiving 2020 will surely be unlike those of years past. And although the day will likely look and feel different this year, there is still so much for which to be thankful. Maybe one of the gifts this challenging year has given us is a new perspective on just how grateful we are for the simplest of things. And while many are still struggling this Thanksgiving, I hope each of us is able to take a moment and practice some gratitude for the lessons 2020 has brought us.

I want to wish all of you and your family a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

We are in this together and together we will emerge stronger.
Rick Cross

