

March 23, 2020

Dear Residents and Visitors to Minster:

While the coronavirus has not been detected in Auglaize County as of the date of the letter, it is getting closer as a case has recently been detected in Darke County. We as leaders of the Village are taking the necessary steps to ensure the safety of our employees and to try to limit the impact of this virus on our residents, visitors, and those who travel to Minster to work. Officials are in constant contact with Auglaize County's Emergency Management Agency and are carefully monitoring recommendations and orders from the CDC, Governor Mike Dewine's office and the Ohio Department of Health.

Village officials are trying to continue business as usual and are committed to providing for the public's needs. However, as we move through this extraordinary public health crisis, some of the events and services that are offered by the village have been altered as a way to protect the public and village employees.

Governor Dewine has taken a strong preventive stance for our state and I encourage that all residents and businesses comply with his directives. We as community leaders are well aware of, and have significant concerns for, the cascading impacts of restrictions, closures and modifications on residents and businesses.

I am filled with hope though, that as usual, our community will come together to support one another during these unprecedented times,

I encourage each and every one of the citizens of Minster to pull together as a community by doing the following:

- Remain calm, but not complacent.
- Be prepared, but do so responsibly. Your actions have a direct effect on others. Overreacting adds to the panic that is already starting to happen.
- Continue practicing smart social distancing and take the same personal hygiene precautions you would to prevent the common flu.
- Support our small businesses and local restaurants who remain open. They are going through a tough time and can use your support

- If you are able, check on a neighbor to make sure that they are ok and that they do not need anything. Deliver needed items to those who are not able to leave their homes.
- If you or a family member is sick, stay at home.
- If the need arises and you call 911, let the dispatcher know if you have flu like symptoms, this will allow the first responders to be prepared.
- If you have children, talk to them about the situation and explain to them what is happening so that they can understand without being afraid.

As a community, we will get through this crisis, but how fast we do will be determined by our adherence to the recommendations of the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health and the Auglaize County Department of Health.

I want to send a THANK YOU out to all who are working tirelessly to keep the shelves stocked, the community safe, our children educated and to those of you who are working to keep the wheels turning as much as possible as we move through this trying time.

I believe that our response to this crisis will reveal that the character of our community is strong and resilient. I want to thank each and every one of you for the sacrifices, you have made or will make, to help us all get through this. I appreciate the cooperation and support of all of our citizens as we together confront this public health crisis and show once again why Minster is a GREAT COMMUNITY.

Mayor Dennis Kitzmiller