



April 24, 2020

## **RAVE ALERT: Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken Provides a COVID-19 Update**

Hi, this is Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken calling to provide you with the latest information regarding coronavirus so that you can continue to protect your family and help keep our community safe during this public health emergency.

As of yesterday, there have been a total of 120 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the City of Gloucester: four hospitalized, 53 in isolation, 56 who have recovered, and sadly seven who have died. Please take a moment to send love, good thoughts and prayers to all the individuals and their families affected this terrible virus.

The number of cases in the state continues to rise as testing becomes more widespread. More testing makes more data and information available. We don't yet have enough data and we need that data to plan for what comes next.

Although our state is currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases there are positive developments to report.

- Advice from experts is that physical distancing and wearing masks or face coverings can slow transmission of the virus and protect our most vulnerable residents.
- If you are suffering from a serious medical condition, we urge you not to wait to get treatment because of coronavirus fears. Just this morning I was on a call with AGH and they are open, safe, stocked, staffed and prepared. If you are experiencing symptoms of a heart attack or stroke, or other acute illness or injury please seek medical attention immediately. You can always call your health care provider for guidance but if you feel it is an emergency please call 911.
- The Gloucester Health Department's contact tracing program continues to identify and monitor those individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 as well as anyone with whom they have recently come into contact. Their fast work is ensuring proper isolation

and quarantine protocols are followed all in an effort to protect all of us from further exposure and community transmission.

I also wanted to take a minute and remind everyone of some important recent announcements.

- Face coverings must be worn when entering any essential business in Gloucester.
- School closures have been extended through the end of the school year; and as a result remote learning efforts will continue.
- Please look for important COVID-19 information and resources, including info on some City deadline extensions, on the City's newly redesigned website.

My team and I are working around the clock to make the best decisions to ensure your safety. Every day we are having conversations with each other, our municipal colleagues and state and federal officials about this virus, important public policy issues, and what comes next. Know during those discussions and as we make decisions my team and I are thinking of the citizens of this community, your concerns, and our collective needs.

We're still seeing some instances where people aren't doing what they are supposed to be doing. Come on people! The Gloucester I know can do better.

We have asked a lot of you and we appreciate your cooperation. It's not over until it's over and today it most definitely isn't over. Stay home, stay safe!

Like many of you I am frustrated and scared but we are in the midst of the surge and we ask that you please stay the course and continue to practice the safety measures recommended and required by our public health experts. These measures are necessary to protect yourself as well as your family, friends and neighbors. Our safety is in each other's hands. We're in this together, and together we will get through this.

Be safe and stay well.