

4-16-21

Dear Winchester & Ashuelot Residents,

Big changes this week. Yesterday the Governor announced the statewide mask mandate expires today. What does this mean? Overall, private businesses, cities, and towns can still require that masks be worn. Additionally, industry-specific guidance documents are still in effect. This means that businesses are still required to follow guidance outlined in the guidance documents. It is expected that on May 7th the Governor will relax most mandates and change the guidance to recommendations. He does reiterate that mask wearing in large groups and public places is the smart thing to do. So, don’t throw your masks away. Masks are still your best defense against the corona virus, besides vaccinations.

It is interesting though; case numbers are rising again. Hospitalizations in NH are low but some states are struggling to keep up with the number of very sick patients. What does this mean? It means the pandemic is still here and will be for quite a while. We all must still be cautious and use preventative measures. The best preventative measure is vaccination. Tens of thousands are being vaccinated each week in the state. The more people who get vaccinated the better we are; we will be able to return to a more normal life sooner. Please call 211 or go to vaccines.nh.gov to set up an appointment.

Sporting events and other outdoor venues are opening. Get out and enjoy, but plan ahead because there is limited occupancy. Restaurants are open to outdoor dining. Farmers markets and nurseries are opening. Go and support your local economy. It is still smart to think twice about going into crowded places. If you do, wear a mask. We are all tired of masks. They are ugly, itchy and make us sweat, but they save lives and shows you respect other people.

None of the good news changes that fact that if you suspect you have COVID or in contact with someone who has tested positive, you must self quarantine and get tested. Call 354-6700 for an appointment, contact Convenient MD or our local Rite Aid Pharmacy for testing.

The Town Hall is back open to the public with safety guidelines in place. You can still always contact us by email and phone. We look forward to seeing you. Town elections are May 11th at the school. The school gym is larger and such safer for groups of people. Covid protocols are in place. Please vote, it is safe!