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Date: March 23, 2020

Covid 19 Action Plan Update #4

Good morning and thank you for joining us. On behalf of the Town Board of Commissioners, I would like to update our community on the status of a 21-year-old female Town resident that has tested positive with the Covid-19 Virus. Our emergency management team has spoken to the health care professionals dealing with this case, as well as the Maryland State Health Department. Although the young lady has cleared many of the CDC guidelines associated with the definition of recovery and is now asymptomatic, she is also potentially dealing with some respiratory issues likely caused by the virus. What is also troubling is that she exhibited some symptoms such as a runny nose and congestion that are not typically present with the Corona Virus. She is resting at home in isolation under a doctor's care and is being monitored daily. We will all continue to send our prayers for her complete and speedy recovery.

We are addressing our Town residents here today because I would like our message to be very clear.

We all knew there was the potential this virus would come to Rising Sun. For the most part our residents have been heeding the warnings about safe distancing, washing hands and limiting our interactions with each other as much as possible. However, I have also heard from some who suggest that the health and safety messaging is overblown. Some people have been hesitant or even refused to heed the warnings put forth by our federal and state partners. While it is true that an overwhelming majority will recover from this virus, it is also true that some may not. Early information previously suggested that the virus would only affect the elderly and that younger people would have no issues. Given the age of the young lady affected, we can no longer assume that the young are not at risk. We must also remind ourselves that the greatest risk may not be to ourselves but to the people that we love.

There have been some comparisons of Corona Virus to the flu, with some suggesting that the risk and outcomes of the Corona Virus are no greater or even less than the risk of getting the flu. Perhaps our thinking about the way we view the flu is what needs adjusting and not any concerns about overreacting to the Corona Virus.

The fact is many people are getting very sick and many are also dying. If the spread of this virus can be minimized and we can take steps to protect ourselves and our loved ones, why does a **PROACTIVE CALL TO ACTION** have to be predicated by measuring fatality rates between two different viruses?

The Corona Virus **IS IN OUR COMMUNITY NOW.**

Some residents will likely be impacted by this virus. That person could be you, a family member, friend or in your neighborhood.

As we speak, this statement rings true, **BECAUSE THIS YOUNG LADY IS SOMEONE'S DAUGHTER, A FAMILY MEMBER, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR.**

Although the Maryland State health department is tracking down how she may have become infected we know that she did not travel or bring this virus from somewhere else. It was here already. It was among us already and we must act accordingly.

We can beat this virus if we do one simple thing.

TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.

In speaking with the medical professionals, we have been advised that in all likely hood, many people have been affected by the virus already but have fully recovered. Many may be affected already but are asymptomatic and likely have no idea that they have been infected. The concern lies in the fact that approximately 80 people in the Rising Sun area have been evaluated for, and many tested for, the novel coronavirus due to symptoms that they presented with. Many of those tests were negative of the virus but not all those test results have come back yet. We have been advised by the medical professionals that the messaging for our residents going forward should be **ACT AS IF EVERYONE IS INFECTED.**

I urge you to dedicate yourselves to religiously

- Washing your hands
- Practicing safe distancing
- Do not gather in groups of 10 or more
- Stay at Home = Do not go out except to go to work if required or get essentials that you need.

Here are some additional safety tips if you must go out.

- If you must go out to shop or pick up supplies, try your best to only touch the things that you are buying.
- Please remember the Corona Virus can survive on many surfaces for hours after contact. Surfaces that are cleaned and or sanitized are only free of the Corona Virus that was on the surface prior to cleaning. Any new contact of virus will potentially re-contaminate the previously cleaned surface.

I would like to remind everyone of the actions the Town has previously taken:

- Town Hall will be Closed for All Walk-in Foot Traffic until March 27th. Interaction with the general public will be by appointment only.
- Utility Bills: Residents needing to pay their utility bills can pay by mail or use the Town's drop box at the front door. Bills can also be paid electronically by logging into the Town's website at www.risingsunmd.org and clicking on the bottom right tab titled "Online Services" If you do not currently have an online account to pay your bills, you can call town hall to get instructions on how to utilize this service. The services charge for using the electronic payment method for the current billing cycle will be credited back to your account. Late fees and shut offs are suspended until further notice
- All public meetings are cancelled until further notice
- Police Department and request for service: All true emergencies should be reported by calling 911. All non-emergency contacts with the Police or questions and concerns are to be directed by email to chiefpeterson@risingsunmd.org or by calling the police department nonemergency number
- All playground equipment at both Veterans Park and Diddi Richards Park are closed to the public. Residents are asked to keep their children of all ages from using the equipment. We ask that residents do not tamper with the reflective tape that we have placed around the equipment.
- Although our Town parks, to include Triangle Dog Park remain open and can be utilized for walking, jogging etc.

Tomorrow, the Town will be launching a Corona virus Action Page on our website. As our Emergency Management team continues to meet with the various State officials we will keep you abreast of all the available information regarding how this virus is affecting us, what steps are being taken by our federal and state partners to combat this virus, how you can protect yourself and last but not least, where do we go from here and how do we rebuild are lives and return to normalcy.

As Mayor and on behalf of the board of commissioners, I ask that you check on your neighbors and lend a helping hand to those less fortunate when possible. Please be considerate to others who may have concerns. This will pass and we will get through this. We are in this together and there is no need to panic. The sacrifices that we are making now will be very disruptive to our lives but will ensure the safety of our loved ones, friends and fellow neighbors. Please also know that the Town of Rising Sun and our emergency management staff will continue to attend the meetings and participating with the appropriate agencies to get all the up to date information and will continue to monitor any issues and develop the appropriate plans to assist our resident through these difficult times.

Again, I thank you for joining us today continue to monitor our Town Facebook page and website for any updates.



Mayor Travis Marion