



KENT CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

414 E. MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 5192, KENT, OHIO 44240 (330) 678-8109 FAX (330) 678-2082

March 11, 2020

Kent is known as a city with great events that are full of fun, good times, great food and beverages. Kent offers a wonderful atmosphere to enjoy events and celebrate a wide variety of occasions. St. Patrick's Day and "Fake Patrick's Day" are two examples of anticipated events that will draw large, celebratory crowds in our city.

As Health Commissioner, my concern is for the safety of all the participants, workers and community members. Governor DeWine has banned any gathering of 100 or more except for typical office environments, schools, restaurants, factories or retail or grocery stores. This novel virus may not be known to be in our community, but it is likely it will be here. Our risk for COVID-19 is not zero. I do not want Kent to be known as the city that helped increase cases of COVID-19. That is the type of reputation which can negatively impact businesses for months and years in the future.

I am asking for your help and cooperation, especially since situations around COVID-19 are evolving very quickly. If you are in the exempt group and planning an event, **please strictly adhere to safety measures**. Stringently follow occupancy limits. Do not allow staff who are showing signs of illness to work and do not serve food buffet style, have extra supplies of cleaners, disinfectants, and supplies for hand hygiene (soap and water as well as alcohol hand rub) available for use.

We know limiting social interaction reduces rapid spread of infectious respiratory illnesses, like COVID-19. Also, be aware since this is a rapidly changing situation, directives which are in the best interest of the public's health may necessitate more rigorous action.

Let's work together to keep Kent safe so we can keep Kent fun.

Sincerely,

CC: Dave Ruller
Mayor Fiala
Hope Jones

Joan C. Seidel MA, BSN, RN, CIC, FAPIC
Health Commissioner