

From: Maurice Jones
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2020 5:27 PM
To: Town Email Users
Subject: Town Manager's COVID-19 Weekly Update 5-01-20
Attachments: [COVID-19 Workplace Preparedness and Prevention Guidance.pdf](#);
[Starting May 4: The Stay Home & Eat Healthy Challenge!](#)

Dear Town Staff,

I hope this email finds you well during these trying times. Here's my update for the week:

Stay-at-Home Order Extended through May 8

The statewide stay-at-home order remains in effect through at least May 8; there is a chance it could be extended again based on how the numbers are trending. Even then, the Governor and his staff have outlined a three-phased approach to removing the restrictions. You can read more [here](#). We expect there will be additional news about next steps early next week.

As difficult as it may seem, please limit your travel out of your home to essential trips, like grocery shopping, coming to work, and getting outdoors to get exercise at a safe physical distance. As Town employees, you serve as role models for the community. Thank you for doing such a great job modeling the behaviors we want to see from others.

There is a lot of talk about heading into Phase 1 of the Governor's three-pronged approach to reopening; that timeline is yet to be determined. I want you to know that we will be very clear in communication about the Town of Chapel Hill's approach to reopening. I will include messaging in my weekly emails. We have several teams working on these re-opening plans, and they will also provide updates through regular communication channels.

We're Learning More About COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has officially added six new symptoms to COVID-19. I've attached a document that includes all the symptoms and a lot of helpful resources in response to this pandemic.

Take Care of Yourself and Each Other

The pandemic has taken a toll on everyone. While I know we are all impacted differently, I'm confident in saying that no one feels the way they did two months ago and the uncertainty around this event adds to our stress and anxiety. If you need extra support, please know we have resources to help you get through this tough time (please see below).

And, self-care is more important than ever. Along with taking appropriate breaks and getting plenty of exercise, eating well is critical to your physical and mental health. The Wellness @ Work Clinic is launching The Stay Home & Eat Healthy Challenge next week. I've attached the email that was sent out this week as a reminder so you can join in the challenge.



High Unemployment

I appreciate your valuable feedback and understanding as we are in an uncertain time when it comes to the finances we will have available for our FY21 budget. Thank you for your patience. I wanted to draw your attention to the announcement made this week about statewide unemployment to put our current situation into perspective. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, \$900 million has been issued to people seeking unemployment benefits. That is only 40% of requests made for unemployment. Many people are out of work right now, and that is extremely draining on the state's resources. We will start to see the full picture soon.

Face Coverings

Masks or cloth face coverings are now mandatory in Town facilities where you cannot observe proper physical distancing. I'd like to also encourage you to wear face coverings when you're off the clock. The CDC guidance does not encourage you to wear the mask at home or when you are safely distanced from other people. Read more about face coverings [here](#).

Exceptional Service

I can't say thank you enough for everything you've done during our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You continue to provide an exceptional level of service. The Town Council has been very vocal about appreciating your efforts, and I speak for them when I say thank you for all you do to make Chapel Hill a special place.

I hope each of you has a restful and safe weekend.

All the Best,
Maurice

Resources

- Submit employee questions and concerns to the Office of Risk Management at 919-969- 5035, rallen@townofchapelhill.org
- Contact the Town's Wellness Clinic: 919-968-2796, <https://chapelhillwellnessatwork.org/>
 - Please call first
 - Please note: the Town's Wellness Clinic does not have the capability to test for coronavirus; the staff can recommend whether you should seek additional medical guidance
- Your Blue Cross and Blue Shield health plan provides video diagnosis options. Visit <https://member.carefirst.com/members/health-wellness/video-visit.page>.
- Contact the Ombuds at ombuds@townofchapelhill.org or 919-265-0806
- If you need to talk with someone about personal problems and/or work-related problems that may impact your job performance, health, mental and emotional well-being, call 1-800-326-3864 or visit bhsonline.com.

Maurice Jones
Town Manager
Town of Chapel Hill, NC
(919) 968-2743
www.townofchapelhill.org