

From: Maurice Jones
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 12:09 PM
To: Town Email Users
Subject: Weekly Update from the Town Manager

Hello Everyone,

I hope this email finds you well. We have a lot of important information to report out.

First Two Positive Cases of Town Staff

Unfortunately I need to inform you that we have had our first positive cases of COVID-19 involving Town staff. I cannot go into specifics due to health laws. However, this serves as a very important reminder that we all have to do our best to remain vigilant in the effort to stay healthy and limit the spread of the coronavirus. Please keep the two infected staff members in your thoughts and prayers.

Our Exposure Response Team (ERT) has done an excellent job with contact tracing to ensure those staff who may have been exposed are removed from any work environment to keep everyone as safe as possible. We need your help, too. I cannot stress this enough: **if you feel sick, if someone in your household feels sick, if you feel you have been or even could have been exposed to someone who is sick, please remain home and contact your supervisor.**

Remember, we all have a responsibility to each another. We are not wearing face coverings just for our own health, we are wearing them to also limit the spread of illness, especially if we are asymptomatic. If you feel uncomfortable by a situation you are in, please speak with you supervisor. You can also reach out to Ombuds (see below for contact).

Your Mental Health is Just As Important

Please don't forget to take care of yourself throughout this event, including your mental health. I'm including all the resources again that you have at your disposal. They are free to you, and I encourage you to reach out if you need help. We know that some of you are caretakers as well. That is a big job during normal times. Don't let stigmas keep you from seeking help.

Budget Enacted

The Town Council enacted the budget Wednesday night for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. If you've been following along, you'll know that this budget has received the most attention in recent years due to recent national events and the call for increased racial equity. At the start of the meeting, the Council passed a resolution outlining its short-term goals in an effort to create long-term change. Our police department has long been known to be progressive, as one of the first departments in the state to have an in-house Crisis Unit, early adopters of body-worn cameras, consent-to-search forms, and many more progressive policies. The Council recognized our department and our officers for these efforts while also acknowledging its intention to do more.

You can see the video of the Council's resolution at <https://youtu.be/QqhkOoQEmCQ>. And I encourage you to follow the process and get involved whenever you feel so moved.

To our police officers, thank you for answering the call to protect and serve this community. While there is a lot being said about the change that is needed in police departments nationwide, the efforts you have made to serve everyone in our community equally have not gone unnoticed and have set a strong foundation for us to build on. Thank you in advance for your willingness to be flexible and open to productive change as a new chapter in community safety is written.

Governor Cooper Extends Phase 2

Gov. Roy Cooper extended Phase 2 (Executive Order No. 141) until 5 p.m. July 17 (an additional three weeks) with Executive Order No. 147 . The decision to extend this Safer-at-Home phase is based on science and was made in consultation with public health experts who continue to see concerning trends in key metrics in NC, such as number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, and number of hospitalizations. Executive Order No. 147 also requires face coverings in public places where proper physical distancing cannot be achieved. Enforcement of the face covering mandate means citations can only be given to businesses/organizations that fail to enforce the requirement of staff or customers. It does not give law enforcement the authority to criminally enforce on individuals, customers, patrons.

The Governor's announcement does not change what we are doing in Orange County. And now, thankfully, there is consistency across our counties. No matter where you are in the state, please continue to practice the three Ws: wash your hands frequently, wear a face covering, and wait 6 feet away from the next person who is not a member of your household.

Holiday Week

As you prepare for the July 4th weekend, please keep your safety and the safety of people around you in mind. The three Ws are a great reminder of the need to protect ourselves and others. The coronavirus does not take holidays off.

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.

Thanks for all of your hard work and be safe!

All the Best,
Maurice

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