

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 4/8/2021

"COVID-19 News Improving!"

At long last, the COVID-19 pandemic is showing signs of subsiding. However, new variants of the virus have the potential to reverse that progress, as does letting down our guard. The newly available vaccines are helping to control the virus and protect ourselves, our families and our communities, leading to restoring some normalcy to our lives.

In Sylvania, normalcy means schools are open, churches are reopening, restaurants are busier and community activities are starting up again. The doors at City Hall have been unlocked. Sylvania City Council is again meeting in person with Zoom and YouTube options. Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce and Sylvania Rotary are also meeting in person with hybrid Zoom meeting options.

After a long year of practicing isolation, it is so good to be seeing people in person again. I have seen grandchildren, family members, friends and acquaintances again, and hope to be seeing more soon. In a while, I hope to be more comfortable in restaurants and other social gatherings.

Sylvania has done a good job of controlling the spread of the virus by avoiding groups, wearing masks, physical distancing and handwashing. Sadly, these efforts did not stop many in our community from catching the virus and some from dying, particularly among our seniors.

What is making a difference now is the availability of vaccines. When my age group became eligible in February, I was fortunate to receive the Moderna vaccine at Flower Hospital. I returned four weeks later in March for the second dose.

While I did experience some achiness and rash after the second dose, it was a great relief to have that virus protection. With full immunity two weeks later, I feel far more confident to visit family and spend a little more time in public.

Now that the vaccines are available to all adults, I encourage everyone to get vaccinated and be protected. With more vaccine doses available, getting the vaccine is much easier at more locations. There is no cost – the federal government is paying for the vaccine.

The vaccines are safe and effective. The more of us who get vaccinated, the less likely the more contagious and deadly new variants will be able to spread.

Most of us have already had vaccines for polio, diphtheria, small pox, whooping cough, flu and more. As a senior, I have also received the pneumonia and shingles vaccines. I encourage everyone to make the effort and help us all by getting a COVID-19 vaccine soon.

Together with continuing to wear masks, physically distancing and washing hands, and now getting vaccinated, we can control the virus and get our lives back to normal sooner!

