

## **COUNTY OF WILSON**

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## Citizens of Wilson County;

Another week of dealing with the Coronavirus and another week dealing with the politics affecting the virus and how we have had to change our lifestyles to cope with what was thrust upon us, from what it seemed like, from out of nowhere. I have noticed that the virus is not a Republican or a Democrat, because it has infected people from both parties. And I have noticed the concern about CDC social distancing guidelines is not partisan, because I have heard, why are we still having to social distance or why is that person not wearing a mask or social distancing from people of both parties.

I grew up in a generation where you were exposed to the childhood diseases (measles, mumps, and chicken pox), got the childhood diseases, and recovered from the childhood diseases. Now children are required to be vaccinated before entering school. I was vaccinated for small pox and polio, but I had friends that had polio and still to this day suffer from the adverse effects. Now with all the vaccines we have today, it is frustrating waiting for a vaccine to be approved by the FDA, a vaccine that will return our lives to the pre-COVID-19 normal.

Having to wear a facial covering is not denying anyone freedom. From what I can tell, with a mask on you are able to go anywhere you wish in the United States. But try to enter another country and you will be denied entry because they do not want you to bring COVID-19 into their country. Look on the world news, people all over the world are wearing facial coverings. When you are a 6 foot distance from other people, at home, involved in a sport, or eating and drinking you are not required to wear a facial covering.

To be compassionate and concerned about how to slow the spread of COVID-19, and keep our elderly and vulnerable people from getting this disease, is the AMERICAN WAY. Let's focus on keeping everyone safe and not worry about an inconvenience that will be going away in what I hope is the very near future. Everyone wants respect and cooperation from other people, to earn that everyone should be respectful and cooperative. We all have to live in this world the good, the bad, the strong, the weak, the healthy, and the sick. So with patience and respect for the concerns of others we can get past this inconvenience.

Hopefully, after this holiday, things will still remain the same and our numbers will stay down. I hope everyone will remain diligent by practicing CDC social distancing guidelines. If the reason our numbers are down is the virus is dissipating, great. If not, we will anxiously be awaiting the approval of a vaccine.

Stay home, stay safe and May God Bless Wilson County!

Wilson County Judge

Richard L. Jackson