

Safety measures appear to be working

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everyone outside walking, biking and talking with another person, determining who is six feet apart, or who's family, and why a person is or isn't wearing a mask.

However, "If we get a complaint, or if we come across something of that nature, then obviously we deal with that, as it comes in," he said.

The state hotline created to report "PAUSE" violations reroutes calls to local law enforcement — like the LPD.

"That's how they set it up throughout the state, where anybody who calls 'PAUSE' it gets filtered by the state to whatever county, and then the county filters it to whatever law enforcement agency is in that county, if it's covered," Previte said. "So, for anything for the Town of Lewiston, that people call 'PAUSE,' it gets filtered to the town police department."

The phone number is 1-833-789-0470.

Previte said his department received a few calls upon the initial issuance of the "PAUSE" order, but, "I'd say at least it's been a week or week-and-a-half since we've gotten anything regarding that."

Stapleton said, "If people see flagrant violations of the physical distancing, they should be calling the 'PAUSE' line. The 'PAUSE' line, the purpose of that is to notify if people are not following the rules.

"Once again, it's based a lot on volume. I walked along the canal. And along that canal, there might have been 100 people over the hour I walked. But as long as you practice social distancing, physical distancing, as long as you wear a mask when people are close, then I think those are the simple things I talk about: The common-sense approaches.

"The 'PAUSE' hotline is for people who are flagrantly violating it. It's not for somebody who's having mulch put down on their driveway or on their lawn. It's for real concerns that people have about violations of the physical distancing rules."

Today's Actions Lead to Tomorrow's Results

From what Previte has seen personally, "It seems that, for the most part, that what I observe is that most people are being compliant. I'd say it's an exception that people are not. We haven't had a lot of instances that we're made aware of that I've witnessed, personally.

"There are some people that it doesn't matter — they're gonna do

Village, school board elections postponed

On Friday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order postponing village and school board elections. The former will now take place Sept. 15, while the latter was pushed to June 9.

Pursuant to executive order 202.26:

- Any village election previously scheduled to be held in March, April, May, or June 2020 will be held on Sept. 15.

- For any village election scheduled to be held on Sept. 15, as directed by this executive order, all party nominations shall be made by party caucus, which may be conducted remotely as set forth by the chair of such party, and which shall be held not later than Aug. 20, and provided that a certificate of nomination from such caucus and any certificates of declination or

WHAT THE CDC SAYS

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

- The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for health care workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Transference:

- Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread from person to person through respiratory droplets. Currently, there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with food. Before preparing or eating food, it is important to always wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds for general food safety. Throughout the day, use a tissue to cover your coughing or sneezing, and wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, or going to the bathroom.

- It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object, like a packaging container, that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

In general, because of poor survivability of these coronaviruses on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from food products or packaging.

whatever they want. They're inconsiderate of whatever's happening. That's why we get people that we arrest and people that speed, because there's people it doesn't matter what law you make — they don't care. They will do what they want anyway. But I'll say that it has been a very low number."

At the Village Board meeting, Welch said, "I realize our village is very walkable, and we have a beautiful village and waterfront and parks. The weather is getting nicer, and we have a lot of people out there. (Previte) has agreed to put his mobile sign up on Center Street to remind people to please practice social distancing and wear masks, when necessary."

She later added, "I'm anxious to open up, but I don't want to do it too soon. We want people to be safe.

"We have to open as a region because, if we don't, if we open before somebody else, everybody will come here — and that's not what we want to do."

Speaking of the coronavirus curve, Cuomo said, "It is not

going down.' It's not, 'it is going down.' There's no 'it.' We are bringing it down. That number was going (up). The only reason the number's (dropping) is because New Yorkers grabbed that projection curve with two hands and pulled it down. And that's why it went (down).

"You go back to your old behavior, that number goes right back up. And it's warm, and you want to get out of the house, and everybody's antsy, and 'I haven't gotten a paycheck,' and 'I'm worried about my job.' I know — but big caution sign to me: Let's watch the numbers; numbers are going down. But we are a very dense environment. We've had more cases. We almost overwhelmed the whole health care system. So, caution moving forward."

Wear a Mask to Show Support to First Responders

Stapleton said, "Our nurses, they're working unbelievably hard. ... But I also have other staff, the public health department staff, regardless of the role they are serving, they fit a role

that helps all of us. ... They're just working a lot, really hard, and making sure the public's protected."

Cuomo said, "We are all very thankful to our health care heroes, our front-line workers, our essential workers. You watch television, there are all these nice commercials thanking everyone for what they did — and we should: nurses, doctors, police officers, transit workers — God bless them. But if you really want to say, 'Thank you,' make their life easier by not getting sick and not making someone else sick.

"An individual's role is to act responsibly and intelligently for yourself and for your family and for your community. Wear a mask. *Wear a mask.* I mean, that is the basic step, right? Socially distance. If you can't socially distance ... (and) you're going to walk up next to a person, wear a mask.

"OK, it's not the most attractive garment ever created — so what? 'Well, I don't like it; it feels uncomfortable, unnatural.' So what? You want to honor the health care workers and the people who literally gave their lives, in some cases, for what they did here? Act responsibly. Wear a mask.

"I know the weather is getting warmer. I know people want to get out of the house. Fine, wear a mask and socially distance. That is your social responsibility in the middle of this overall pandemic.

"And when we talk about New Yorkers together and this spirit of unity and how people are helping one another, and how tough we are, and how smart we are, and how disciplined we are, and how we love one another — show it. You know how you show love? By wearing a mask — please."

Will it Work?

So, is the Village of Lewiston at greater risk?

"That's a question for health officials. If people don't practice social distancing, continue to wash hands, wear masks and gloves, they risk contracting and spreading the virus," Welch said.

On Thursday, Cuomo announced the infection rate among health care workers is about the same or lower than the infection rate of the general population.

As part of her weekday afternoon community update on LCTV, Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydysh said, "The governor points out this probably shows that all of those precautions that the front-line workers are taking — washing hands, using hand sanitizer, wearing masks — that those things are working.

"It's a reminder that that's important for us, as well. Even if you're not a frontline worker, you should still be doing those things. The data shows that they are truly making a difference in stopping the community spread."

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