



May 29, 2020

Citizens of Camanche,

As you are all probably aware, Governor Reynolds' latest emergency proclamation allows virtually everything to open back up to at least 50% capacity with social distancing and other mitigation efforts to continue. This does not mean that we are out of danger when it comes to contracting COVID-19. So, as we move forward, I would encourage all of you to continue observing the practices that have allowed us to come this far. As a group, the citizens of Clinton County have done a fabulous job of mitigating the spread of this virus. To date, we have had 60 positive cases in the county (no new cases in the last week) including one death, with 57 of those having already recovered. Compare this to the statistics from some of the surrounding counties---Whiteside County in Illinois has had more than twice as many positive cases including 8 deaths, Scott County Iowa has had 309 confirmed cases including 8 deaths, Dubuque County Iowa has had 285 positive cases including 10 deaths, and Muscatine County Iowa has had 531 cases which includes 33 deaths. Since we are surrounded by these counties, I find it incredible that our numbers are much lower. This is a testament to the folks of our county and their ability to understand the seriousness of this virus. Thank you all for doing your part!

I would also like to thank the city of Camanche staff for their efforts in this mitigation process. We have turned our employees lives upside-down over the past few months by changing their schedules, adding duties to their jobs, re-scheduling vacations, etc. All of them have responded by doing what we asked of them without hesitation. I think they should all be commended. With all of that being said, we still need to be accountable individually for continuing to mitigate the spread of this virus. I noticed a large increase in overall activity within the city during the Memorial Day weekend. While I understand that we all have cabin fever as a result of being cooped up for an additional three months beyond winter, it doesn't mean that we have to do all of our socializing during the first week restrictions are lifted. Please continue to do the right thing.

With the latest proclamation, the city of Camanche will also be opening things back up. Starting Monday, June 1st, we will be allowing rental of the community center (at no more than 50% of capacity) and we will be opening up the parks and playgrounds for use. For those of you anticipating utilizing these facilities, we suggest that you read the governor's proclamation as it outlines the required mitigation efforts to be undertaken with the new openings. Also, the city had previously suggested that garage sales not be held during the pandemic in order to protect everyone's health and safety. However, with the mass gathering limit of ten having been lifted, the city will back off of that suggestion provided that the homeowners take responsibility for making certain that their customers are safe.



Unfortunately, as everything else is opening back up and the river levels are prime for recreational boating and fishing, we will be shutting down the Swan Slough boat ramp for re-surfacing of the parking area due to flood damage. We are going to be shutting this down on Sunday evening, May 31st after the parking area is clear of weekend boat traffic. The parking area work should be completed by Friday if no unforeseen issues arise, which will allow the boat ramps to be open for the weekend.

As things continue to open up, I would like to note that the police department will continue to be accessible through the front lobby only, while the fire department will still be closed to the public until scheduled upgrades can be made to the building. City hall will remain open to the public with only one person being allowed in the lobby area---please follow the instructions posted. Also, we are currently working to find a solution that will allow us to have in-person council meetings. With the city council chambers lacking sufficient space to hold meetings with members of the public present---while still social distancing---we may continue with virtual meetings for a couple of months until the planned expansion of city hall is complete. I will keep you updated with future letters, but that is the current plan.

Finally, as most places and businesses are allowed to open, I am planning on continuing to address the citizens through these letters. My plan is to send out a letter monthly going forward, unless situations necessitate information being passed along more frequently. I have heard nothing but good feedback regarding these letters, so I would like to continue to use them to keep the public informed.

Again, the city really appreciates the actions our citizens have taken to keep themselves and their neighbors from contracting this virus. Please continue to be diligent in this process and may you all continue to remain safe and healthy. God bless!

Trevor Willis

Mayor, City of Camanche