



## Pittsfield Charter Township

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### Office of the Supervisor

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#### *The (Holiday) Home Stretch*

As we close out the tumultuous year of 2020, I know we are all hoping for a healthier and more prosperous new year. However, it is important to keep in mind that a transition to better health and economic revival will be gradual and each of us must play our part by being kind and patient.

Just as the last miles of a long road trip are the hardest to endure, the next few months will test our patience and gratitude. COVID-fatigue is real and impacting our mental and physical health. Even as we acknowledge this fact, let's endure these upcoming few months and make decisions that protect our and our community's health because we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Both Pfizer and Moderna have reported excellent outcomes with their vaccine trials and we are, as always, fortunate to live in the greatest country in the world!

With that perspective, I urge each of us to, unequivocally, commit ourselves to adhering to the health guidelines issued by national, state, and county health experts. Even, and maybe especially, when you are tempted to stop by a friend's house for an "intimate" event, please use your best judgement. Data indicates that the majority of the current cases are attributable to household exposure. In other words, the virus transmission is occurring from one member of a household to others as they are exposed through such "benign" events as sports gatherings or not wearing a mask at a workplace or small social events with 2-6 people.

If not for ourselves and our loved ones, we must exercise restraint and our better judgment for those that are risking their lives for us every day - the front line workers including public safety personnel, grocery and other retail store employees, health care providers, postal and other delivery workers, and public transit drivers. These front line workers have uniformly noted that they don't want to be recognized with mere clap-outs or yard signs. Instead, they want us to wear our masks and exercise physical distancing so they don't become carriers and further endanger their and their loved ones lives. We are all dependent on each other for our health and well-being.

As such, this is a time when we must appreciate our inter-connectedness and sense of community but do so alone (or virtually)!! While we are hard-wired to feel this sense of belonging when we're with family/friends or at sports events or music concerts or at school or at work, etc.; the pandemic requires us to, strange as it is, feel and be an integral part of our community but while being alone or in our own "pandemic-pods." So, while you spend a lot more time with yourselves and others in your household, know you are doing so because you are part of an amazing community that is coming together to protect the public health of all its members.

For that and for your partnership in helping create this incredible community of Pittsfield Township, please accept my most sincere thanks and gratitude. I wish you and your loved ones a safe and peaceful holiday season. Please be kind and patient with yourselves and each other - I look forward to connecting back with you in the New Year!

*Mandy Grewal, Ph.D.*  
*Supervisor*

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