

City of Minden

P.O. Box 239, 325 N. Colorado
Minden, Nebraska 68959

phone 308.832.1820
fax 308.832.1949
www.MindenNebraska.org



Letter from the Mayor

Hello, Human Kindness

In my letter to the citizens of Minden in June, I made reference to a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel regarding COVID-19. Sadly, today that glimmer grows significantly dimmer. COVID-19 is still here and running rampant. The numbers of those infected are growing at an exponential rate. From everything I've read or heard, this spike in numbers is attributed mostly to human behavior, or perhaps I might better say the lack of appropriate human behavior.

After dealing with this disease for nearly ten months, scientists and doctors have revealed a number of ways we can become infected. One is through physical touch when coming in direct contact with the virus. Using hand sanitizers and washing one's hands frequently are the recommended preventive measures. However, the most common spread of this disease is through respiration. The wearing of masks and proper physical distancing are the recommended preventive measures to minimize this source of spread. The wearing of a mask is where one's choice of appropriate human behavior comes into play.

Think about this for a moment. Many other communicable diseases are spread in a similar manner. Consider the common cold. Each of us learned long ago that out of consideration and kindness for one another, we cover our coughs and sneezes. No one has mandated that we must do so, rather we do it from the goodness of our hearts. We know it is wise to sneeze or cough into the elbow of our shirtsleeve and not directly into the air or onto our hands to avoid spreading cold germs.

As your mayor, I still can't mandate the wearing of masks, but I continue to ask that we all wear them and especially when indoors. Research has overwhelmingly shown that mask wearing dramatically reduces the spread of this disease. I implore you not to view mask wearing as an infringement on your liberty or perceive it as some kind of political ploy. Rather, treat it as a consideration of kindness for one another and a common courtesy -- just like sneezing into one's sleeve!

Perhaps you have noticed a recent heartwarming commercial on television sponsored by CHI Health involving the rescue of a small horse. Appropriately, the ad is titled, Hello humankindness. The ad asks the question Is there a hero in all of us? It then responds YES! We then witness the rescue of this small horse. We need also to practice human kindness. We can start by wearing a mask to protect our fellow humans.

Keeping everyone safe and healthy should be everyone's goal. As your mayor, I, too, ask the question, Is there a hero in all of us? I believe the answer is YES! Let's all exercise more human kindness and start wearing masks! Thank you.

Ted Griess -Mayor of Minden