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## **GATHERINGS POSE HIGH RISK OF SPREADING CORONAVIRUS**

To the Residents of Carlisle:

March 27, 2020

Several Carlisle residents are notifying the Health Department and Police Department that many townspeople are continuing to attend social gatherings despite the risks of contracting or transmitting Coronavirus disease (COVID). In order to respond to citizen concerns and protect our community, we are issuing this statement to send a clear message that gatherings pose significant risk of spreading the virus, even if the people involved feel perfectly healthy and are not elderly.

As you all know, the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has reached our local community with three confirmed cases this week. We are monitoring activity and expect confirmed cases to increase dramatically over the next few weeks with increased availability of testing. It is likely that many people have already been exposed to the virus and will soon come down with symptoms.

What You May Not Know: At this time, we don't know how many cases of COVID-19 come from carriers with no symptoms whatsoever. Recent medical literature cites the proportion of pre-symptomatic transmission in the range of 12.6% (China)<sup>1</sup>, 48% (Singapore) and 62% (Tianjin, China)<sup>2</sup>. Social distancing by eliminating close contact with others and staying home significantly reduces your risk, your family's risk and risk to our community. **Any close human interaction, regardless of how small the group, puts yourself and family at risk.**

Playgrounds can be a problem. COVID-19 can live for days on surfaces and can pose a risk to users of the equipment if not disinfected properly. Residents should avoid town fields if social distancing of 6 feet or more cannot be accomplished. Families can go for walks but should maintain a 6-foot distance from other families. Tennis and basketball courts, baseball and soccer fields, where people share balls and other outdoor places that encourage close social interaction and have equipment that can't be disinfected properly should be avoided. If we all do our part now we can hopefully shorten the duration and severity of this virus to reduce the negative impacts on our community.

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<sup>1</sup> Du Z, Xu X, Wu Y, Wang L, Cowling BJ, Ancel Meyers L. Serial interval of COVID-19 among publicly reported confirmed cases. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2020 Jun [date cited]. <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2606.200357>

<sup>2</sup> Ganyani T, Kremer C, Chen D, Torneri A, Faes C, Wallinga J, et al. Estimating the generation interval for COVID-19 based on symptom onset data. *medRxiv.* 2020:2020.03.05.20031815.