



August 18, 2020

“What's important is that, if we all stick to the rules and accept a certain amount of inconvenience, we can pull off something wonderful – we can contain the spread of a virus that is lethal for some and causes suffering to many more.

And if we pull this off, we will have done so together.”

(Kwame Anthony Appiah in his Ethicist column in the NYT last week.)

I love this quote. I think it conveys so much! Yes, we are all experiencing a “certain amount of inconvenience” but our collective goal is something wonderful and will benefit so many - here at Wake Robin, in Vermont, in the country. It’s our collective challenge and our collective goal is to contain the spread of COVID **together**. As a community. So far, so good folks. But let’s not let down our collective guard.

COVID-Act Now just increased Vermont’s risk from ‘green’ (On Track to Contain COVID) to ‘yellow’ (Slow Disease Growth). “According to Reuters, VT and ME had the **highest** rates of increase for the last week. Our cases per capita are still the lowest in the nation, and the numbers are still very low. But VT had 43 cases since last Friday, scattered all over the state. Chittenden, Addison, Bennington, and Orange counties are now all yellow. Our R(t) number is now slightly above 1.0; that's true of only 20 states.”

The Governor’s news conference today did not set off any alarm bells for me. But as students return to college campuses, everyone is on alert, and honestly expecting cases to increase. But Dr. Levine is confident we have the contract tracers, testing protocols and systems for quarantining in place to contain outbreaks at campuses. There is also confidence that opening the K-12 school system as is being planned, with many precautions being put in place, is really in the best interests of all kids, and especially those from lower income households who, sadly, rely on school for meals and other basic supports. Cautious but optimistic is how I would frame the state’s current status. Anyone else watch the news conference and walk away with a different opinion?

I want to also clarify what may be a small misunderstanding with our current rules. On a neighborhood call today, I was asked when **the “10-mile radius” rule** for

traveling off campus would be lifted. Just for clarification, there is no hard and fast rule to stay within 10 miles of Wake Robin. Rather it's a request to stay close to home whenever possible. I picked 10 miles, but honestly if you want to come visit the Islands, for example, that's just fine. Just please stay in VT, always wear your mask, physically distance, eat take out only, no shopping indoors, no hanging out with people from outside of Vermont, etc.

From Meagan Buckley:

We shared with you all last week that in order to open up more congregative activities in Linden, we were required by the State to test all Linden residents and all staff who work (in any capacity) in Linden. Testing started yesterday where we completed 85 staff tests. Testing is going very well today as well. We have completed testing for all of the Linden residents. We have now tested around 120 employees with 2 more days of testing left. We expect to get the results early next week. We will let you know a summary of the results when we receive them.

Blueberries!

Finally, a little **blueberry** teaser since **blueberry** season is in full swing! Friday afternoon at 1:30, be on the lookout for a pop-up **blueberry** surprise brought to you! You may hear some noise outside. That's your cue to come on out and grab a treat! That's all I'm sayin'!

We will send out a notice as well - maybe a RAVE message on Friday as well. Looking forward to seeing you!

And, today's humor:

- I have realized that I will never return to my original weight, and I'm okay with that. 7 lbs. 2 oz. is just not realistic.
- I hate it when I see some old person and then realize we went to high school together.
- Never be afraid to try something new. Remember - amateurs build the ark; professionals built the Titanic.

Thanks everyone! Stay safe.



Martha
Martha E. Maksym
President and CEO