



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

October 27, 2020

Dear Resident:

I write to you today because Chicago needs your help.

We are amid a second surge of COVID-19. The rapid rise we are experiencing in infections cuts across all demographics, zip codes and age groups. This moment is a critical inflection point for Chicago, and we need your help to stay ahead of this pandemic based on the data and science of the disease.

COVID-19 thrives in places where people let their guard down. As the weather cools and people move indoors, the risk of spread rises exponentially. Compounding this are reports of upticks in the number of people gathering without social distancing, and worse, without masks. Some of us have a misplaced sense that those we know do not have the virus. However, we know from the data that gatherings pose significant health risk. There is a 30% chance that someone in a group of 25 people in Chicago has active, infectious COVID-19. Even within a smaller group of 10 people, there is a 14% chance that someone has COVID-19.

Data also tells us that COVID-19 is spreading in the home. People naturally feel safe at home, which leads residents to remove their face coverings and not socially distance. These actions pose a huge public health risk. Two out of three people diagnosed with COVID-19 personally know the person who likely infected them. Three out of four of those infections likely took place at home.

So, what can you do?

- **Do not have guests in your home** unless they are essential workers (e.g., home healthcare providers, or childcare workers).
- **Recommit to a personal bubble.** Who in your life do you interact with without a face covering? That number should not be more than 6 individuals, and preferably only include those in your household.
- **Wear a face covering in all indoor and outdoor public settings**, including your building's elevators, hallways, and mailroom. If you must have a non-household member enter your residence, keep your face coverings on for the duration of the visit.

We are at a critical moment in our fight against COVID-19. Once more, we are asking you to do your part to help save lives. We must wear masks. We must socially distance. We must

remain vigilant. I know you have all made tremendous sacrifices since the spring. Everyone's world has been upended. Let me just say on a personal note, to state the obvious: This is an incredibly difficult time. And as a result, as part of my wellness routine, I have leaned into my faith even more. I make sure every day that I have time just to be alone, to breathe, and put the burdens of the day aside. Please make sure you are finding safe ways to take care of yourself as well.

Right now, it is hard to think about an uncertain future that may include continuing to make these sacrifices. But there is no other option. As a city, we have met this challenging moment with grace and resilience. We all must double-down on our commitment to our health and the health of our city to bend the curve and shape our future back to where it needs to be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Louis E. Sinfelt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Louis" being the most prominent.

Mayor