An Update from Assistant Town Manager Josh Gruber
6/26/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

With the continued rise in coronavirus cases across South Carolina, our Town Council will be considering an ordinance to take a tougher stance on wearing masks in public. Mayor John McCann has called for a virtual special Town Council meeting at 8:30 a.m. Monday, June 29, for discussion of an ordinance requiring the wearing of face masks in certain areas. Municipalities across the state and country have adopted laws for wearing masks as a way to protect their residents and help curb the upward trend of coronavirus cases. With concerns the public has brought to the Town's attention, Mayor McCann feels it's time to address this. Our staff researched similar laws and drafted an ordinance that will be presented to Town Council for consideration.

The meeting agenda and the drafted ordinance will be available on our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov for the public to review.

You can submit public comments on the agenda item electronically via our Open Town Hall portal at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/opentownhall/. The portal will close at 12 p.m. on Sunday, June 28. The public may view the meeting on the Town's main Facebook page (http://facebook.com/TownofHiltonHeadIslandSC), the Public Meeting Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TownofHiltonHeadIslandMeetings/) and the Town's website (www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov).

COVID-19 Drive-Thru Testing Event on June 29th
As we continue to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, we are giving community residents an opportunity to be tested for the coronavirus. Our Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue, along with Hilton Head Hospital, the Volunteers In Medicine Clinic and SCDHEC, is hosting a COVID-19 Drive-Thru Testing Event on Monday, June 29th, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hilton Head Island High School, 70 Wilborn Road.

- Anyone can participate.
- The test is free.
- No appointment is required.
- No doctor's order is required.
- This is only a test for the virus.
- This is not a test for COVID-19 antibodies.
- This will be a nasal swab.
- This is not a rapid test. Results are expected to be returned in 2 to 4 days.

- You will receive phone call with test results.
- There are no prerequisites for the test such as having symptoms.
- Multiple persons within a vehicle may be tested.
- We ask your patience as traffic flow may be heavy in the area.

SCDHEC partners with organizations around the Lowcountry to host mobile pop-up clinics, where you may receive a free screening for the coronavirus. For dates and locations, please visit the SCDHEC website at www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-mobile-pop-clinics

Stay Protected with Safety Precautions
South Carolina has been experiencing a rise in the number of active coronavirus cases across the state. This is why we continue to advise everyone – residents and visitors – to follow precautions the CDC and S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control recommends to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Those include:

- Practicing social distancing.
- Wearing a mask in public.
- Avoiding group gatherings.
- Regularly washing your hands.
- Staying home if you're sick.

You can track the latest number of cases in South Carolina and in Beaufort County by visiting our COVID-19 Hub at hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19 or SCDHEC.gov.

Beach Parking Guidance for Coligny Beach Park
This weekend, our overflow parking for Coligny Beach Park will be at the USCB Hospitality Campus, 1 Sand Shark Drive. A Palmetto Breeze Shuttle is available to transport you from the campus to Coligny Beach Park. Security will close the Coligny Beach parking lot when it becomes full and will not reopen it until after several spaces become available. Staff cannot do one car out one car in because this creates a safety issue on Pope Avenue.

2020 Census: Together We Can Shape Our Futures
The census is mandated by the Constitution, and everyone living in the United States (including the five U.S. territories) is required to participate. A complete and accurate count is critical for our community, because the results of the 2020 Census will affect community funding, congressional representation, highway planning and construction, grants that support teachers, preschool program, housing assistance and more. So where do we stand today with our participation?

To date, 40.4 percent of the households here have self-responded to the 2020 census compared to 42.9 percent in 2010. You can help us top our 2010 number by taking the census at www.my2020census.gov, calling 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish), or filling out the paper form sent by mail. It only takes a few minutes to complete.

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce Seeking Volunteer Ambassadors
For its Staying Safe Together/Mask Up initiative, the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce is seeking volunteers to help distribute masks to the public. If you are interested, please email pathforward@hiltonheadisland.org. A Chamber staff member will be in touch with you.

Stay Up-to-Date With Town Government
Visit our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov and sign up for our e-subscription service. On the sign-up page, choose topics you are most interested in receiving information about. If you have already signed up for this service, we encourage you to go to your subscription page and update your selections. This is something you will need to do because as a self-service portal we do not have access to privacy information to update the service for you.

Ways to Give
For a list of very worthy organizations and initiatives that need your support as they continue to help individuals in our community, visit the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber Commerce at www.hiltonheadchamber.org/covid-19/ .These organizations are assisting with rent, food and other needs.