

In a quandry over proper COVID conduct

These days of social distancing has left me in a quandary. Just when do I need to wear a mask? Since my employer had volunteers graciously make masks for each of the employees, I have decided it is only right that I wear the mask when doing work related activities. When I go to the post office or grocery shopping, for work I don my mask. However, currently when I walk to and from work or ride my bike, I have not donned the mask.

I have kept my mask in my car, and at times in my pocket, in case it seems I socially should wear the mask.

I have also noticed variations of mask wearing by employees of different establishments. In some businesses' employees wear masks, gloves and sometimes have plastic dividers between themselves and the customer. In other places no masks, gloves or even a plastic divider. I presume that in those varying businesses the employer has left the decision of whether to wear a mask or not up to the employee.

The variation in what I am seeing as who should wear a mask when is something that leaves me uncertain of what I should do.

It also led to social awkwardness for me recently when I rode my bike on the Cardinal Greenway and passed by someone who I thought might be a co-worker. Normally I would have taken a chance and yelled her name. Not that day, instead feeling that if I said something, and it was not her, and the person be-



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



came offended that I might have spewed something on them, I instead rode on by.

On my way back I came face to face with the bike rider and did say hello, after realizing it was her after all.

While riding your bike on the Cardinal Greenway is great exercise and I would strongly encourage it, I would like to know what the new social expectation is?

Is it preferred that someone just rides on by, or is it appropriate to say hello as you pass by? Or should you only give a shout out if you are wearing a mask? Which for me would seem very restrictive and difficult to breath and ride.

Yet, in no way would I want someone to fear that I might infect them by trying to be friendly, so instead for now, I just ride on by, smiling if eye contact is made.

My oldest daughter has also experienced social awkwardness, except for her it went further to social shaming. During a recent phone conversation with Laura, she shared how infrequently she ventures out of her apartment due to community reaction. In

Milwaukee where she is living, the stay in place order has been extended until May 26. One of her bouts at exercise, she said an elderly woman shunned her as she attempted to move to the edge of the sidewalk as the women walked by. Instead of slowing down the other woman, scolded my daughter for only being four feet away from her. Laura's response was, what did she expect me to do, walk into the street?

I get that people are afraid and uncertain in these times when we really do not know for sure how easily transmitted this virus could be or who may or may not be infected.

However, don't we all have a responsibility to do our own due diligence and our own social distancing? I have found when I walk in my neighborhood if I see someone on the same side of the street as me, I purposefully cross to the other side, so as not to get too close to that other person. Again, not what prior to the virus I would have ever done.

It again makes me wonder, will that other person think I am a snob or somehow biased against them? Or will they appreciate the fact I was social distancing.

As we continue to navigate this new normal and uncertainty of how to interact when out of our homes, let us remember that we are all trying to navigate this new time. I would imagine more people than not are trying their best, like me, to keep everyone safe and healthy while not alienating or snubbing anyone.

Cards

nd Upland Chamber of Commerce –allows donors to make a donation of any amount. As donations rise, gift cards are purchased from local Chamber businesses then distributed to employees in frontline industries – healthcare, first responders, and essential employers.

“Our local businesses that rely on foot traffic are being severely impacted by the current COVID-19 crisis. Any way that we can support these businesses and show them how much Grant County cares for them is a huge victory at this time,” said Marion-Grant County Chamber of Commerce President/CEO

Kylie Jackson. “Grant County has a strong network of organizations that serve every day to encourage and support families that are fighting to get by. Those same organizations are stepping up to meet that already existing need and the increased need caused by the COVID pandemic.

“The United Way of Grant County is honored to serve alongside these organizations because the need is always present. The United Way is skilled at matching a donors’ desire to help to that need in the community. Partnerships are one of the best assets of Grant County and we are excited to be involved in

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this one as well.”
There are several ways to get involved. First, you can make a donation to the Gift Cards for Thanks project at www.unitedwayofgrant-county.org/giftcardsoft-hanks. Second, use the hashtag #BigThanksSmall-Biz on social media to raise awareness of the campaign by letting others know about the opportunity to support essential employees. Third, treat yourself and support local businesses on your own. Finally, challenge a friend or business to donate. Be proud of the impact you can have in Grant County and encourage others to do the same.

Grant

“Social distancing is the most important and effective tool we have to defeat COVID-19,” said Gov. Holcomb. “If we act now, we can save lives and then reopen our state for business, group activities, sports and the other things we enjoy doing together as Hoosiers. But we need every person to take this seriously and do their part. We are truly in this together.”

The banners have been displayed at local businesses, churches, and nonprofits all throughout the county, including the Community Foundation office, Grant County Rescue Mission, Hope House Marion, Marion Grant County Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Grant

County, Marion Cycle Works, Carey Services, Matter Park, Lance’s New Market in Gas City, Marion General Hospital, Brookhaven Wesleyan Church, College Wesleyan Church, God’s House Ministries, Walnut Creek, Matthews Feed and Grain, Miller’s Merry Manor, and Grant County State Bank.

You can also participate in promoting #INthistogether by purchasing Grant County t-shirts from Hoosier Jiffy Print. With this partnership, \$5.00 from each t-shirt sold will stay in Grant County and will be split equally to support the United Way, the Community Foundation, and the local business response to COVID-19. Visit: www.hj-county.com

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papparel.com/grant_county_together to place orders for your family or team today.

Right now, the Community Foundation has distributed all available banners, but would be happy to provide the graphic art if a business or organization would like to print their own. Call 765-662-0065 for more information.

Read more about the over \$90,000 in Rapid Response Grants awarded by the Community Foundation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic at www.GiveToGrant.org/Impact and follow us on Facebook (@GiveToGrant) to stay up-to-date on how you can be involved in Grant County.

INDIANA HISTORY ANSWERS

1. b/ Spencer County
2. d/ Bates House
3. c/ Fort Wayne

Stay
home

Stay
safe

Stay
healthy

THE NEWS HERALD

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