



1819 - 1839

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 3, 2020**

*Statement from*  
**City of Vandalia Mayor Ricky Gottman**  
*Urges citizens to continue extreme caution with COVID measures*

VANDALIA, ILLINOIS – “With the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, I am strongly encouraging ALL residents to please continue to be extremely cautious with regards to the coronavirus pandemic. I urge you to wear masks, wash hands thoroughly and frequently, use hand sanitizer, disinfect common spaces and practice social distancing.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and other health experts tell us daily that gatherings of people outside your household present a high risk of spreading the infection. In our current situation, with the drastic rise in the positive cases, attending even small gatherings that mix households, or traveling to areas that are experiencing high rates of positivity, is not advised and is potentially dangerous. I continue to urge those who choose to be social to please wear masks and maintain social distancing as much as possible.

The goal is to reduce transmission as we head into the holidays so businesses and schools can remain open and our loved ones can stay healthy. The holidays are a time for gathering, so please be aware of the increased risk and make good decisions. With today’s technological devices and social media, there is the option of considering long-distance, risk-free alternatives to our traditional gatherings. Not gathering face-to-face is a considerate sacrifice that will ensure a better tomorrow. We can all be a part of the solution when everyone works together for the safety of our community.”

**Contact Information:**

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**The City of Vandalia**