



March 26, 2020

## CITY OF LANDER, WYOMING

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear Lander Residents

We face a tremendous challenge as a community, like nothing we've seen before. Covid-19 is now thought to be wide-spread among us. If contaminated, most of us will experience only mild symptoms. However, each of us has family members, friends, and neighbors who are at risk of severe, and even life-threatening responses. Being in a rural community makes this extra hard: we have extremely limited resources, from personnel to medical equipment to finances.

What we do have—and lots of it—is heart and pride. I've lived in Lander for decades and I know that Lander's community spirit is strong. I've seen it before when we've responded to floods, fires, and other tragedies. The outreach and support I've seen these last few days have been extraordinary. And, not at all surprising, because I know that when called to act, Lander responds like no other community.

I know that what we're facing is hard, and that many residents are scared. Many face big uncertainties of jobs and finances. It's tough to have kids home from school with an unknown return to class. Maintaining social distancing is rough. We're a community and it's tough to not gather together in times of need. Gathering together is what we've always done in previous challenges. We've stood shoulder to shoulder to mourn, to fill sand bags, to fund-raise. In this challenge, everything is turned on its head. We can't gather together, but we will rise together. We are Lander United. LanderUnited seems to be the group that's rising up and a hashtag that's gaining momentum.

What I'm seeing across the US is that the situation continues to worsen. Hospitals are filled, critical staff are getting sick, supplies are running low. We don't want this to happen in Lander. **We can not let this happen in Lander.** There are many people working hard in our community to get us through the pandemic. Now more than ever we depend on health workers, people stocking the grocery shelves, volunteers, and restaurant workers among many, many others.

I'm asking a personal favor of each Lander resident to do everything possible to stop the spread and help Lander get through this challenge:

**1) Stay home and minimize contact with non-immediate family members**

Use delivery services

Go out only when necessary, and maintain 6 feet apart

Use phones, social media, and apps like FaceTime, Skype, etc. to stay connected when physically separate

**2) Stop the spread of germs**

- Clean commonly touched surfaces regularly
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Wash hands well and often
- Self- isolate at home if you experience symptoms

**3) Take care of your household**

- FCSD1 staff are working hard to provide at-home learning resources for school aged kids
- Go for walks, enjoy open spaces
- Eat healthy meals, get enough sleep, exercise regularly
- If you need help, reach out! There are resources available for financial help, food assistance, mental health needs, and delivering needed supplies

**4) Offer support**

- Whether you have time, a smile, money, or kindness, we can all offer something
- Be considerate in your shopping, don't horde food or supplies

I know that we can make our way through this. I've seen Lander pull together before, and we will do it again. The path forward isn't easy. There are real challenges facing us now, and there will be real challenges for us to address once this is behind us. I, like many of you, have concerns about our future economy. No one knows how long this will last, or what the recovery process will look like. What I do know is that I am confident that we'll each do our part. I know that we'll look out for those in need, and that we'll come through this as an even stronger community. I'm already seeing incredible acts of generosity and compassion. I want you to know that I believe in the strength of Lander's spirit now more than ever.

Thank you



Monte Richardson  
Lander Mayor