September 4th, 2020

To the Hales Corners Community:

Labor Day is fast approaching and we’re all looking forward to celebrating the last big weekend of the summer. This certainly has been an unusual year and we’ve all had to make changes to the way we normally live our lives. This weekend is one of those times when we need to adjust our plans to stay safe and keep our loved ones and our community safe as well.

We learned from the celebrations over the 4th of July, that our decisions and actions can impact the entire community. Here in Hales Corners as of July 1st the total number of positive cases reported (since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic in March) was 45 cases. On July 30th, 2020 the total number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Hales Corners jumped to 109. So in just one month the case count more than doubled. Being in contact with a larger number of people significantly increases the risk of developing COVID-19.

So how can we do things differently over Labor Day to keep this disease from spreading as it did in the month of July? It’s fairly simple. Think about the plans you have. Decide if you want to risk being exposed to COVID-19 by getting together with a large group of people. **We encourage people who have even mild symptoms to stay home.** There are a lot of people who test positive who never had any symptoms at all. Those individuals can spread the disease without knowing it.

If you decide to go ahead with plans to get together in a large group of friends or family, celebrate outdoors and keep your distance. No hugs or high fives! You can easily visit with people while maintaining at least a 6 ft. distance. If you’re indoors, wear a mask. And remember to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently, especially before eating. If this sounds like everything you’ve already heard over the last several months, it is!

What each of us decides to do this weekend will have an impact on the entire community. Hales Corners schools are open and I think we can agree, we all want them to stay open. You can help make that happen by taking a minute to think about the plans you have this weekend, how many people you’ll be in contact with and what could possibly happen as a result of the choices you make.

The Health Department strives to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of our residents and the community as a whole. Please help us accomplish our goal as we face the incredible challenges during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This Labor Day weekend, have fun, relax and stay safe!

Kathleen Radloff, RN
Health Officer
Hales Corners Health Department

*Working to Safeguard and Enhance the Health of Children, Families, and the Community.*