Dear Williamston Rotarians,

The Health and Safety Committee would like you to be aware that Ingham and surrounding counties are in the high-risk spectrum for COVID19 transmission.  In Michigan, an average of 23 people die of COVID-19 every day (up from 2/day in previous weeks.) There were 147 deaths and 16,901 new cases last week.  Cases will increase as temperatures cool down and more activities move indoors.

What does that mean?  Following CDC analysis, we recommend that members:

* Wear a mask indoors in public and on [public transportation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html).
* Stay [up to date](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html) with COVID-19 vaccines.   Currently, the Omicron Booster is widely available at local pharmacies, without an appointment and requiring only a 15-minute post-observance period.  You can now get your flu shot at the same time.
* [Get tested](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html) right away if you have symptoms.  The treatment options that keep you out of the hospital and minimize illness and long-term symptoms are most effective when they are used early.  Keep in mind that you can be infected, even with the vaccines, because unvaccinated and under-vaccinated populations continually incubate variants that outrun the scope of available vaccines.
* If you are at [high risk for severe illness](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html), consider taking [additional precautions](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html).

Masks and vaccines as your best friends in personal responsibility, as well as the well-being of your community.

Meanwhile, the Health and Safety Committee will be consulting with the Board to locate indoor meeting locations that enable ventilation mitigation measures. Examples of measures that can [improve ventilation and filtration](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/Improving-Ventilation-Home.html) include:

* Bringing in as much outdoor air as possible—for example, opening windows.
* Increasing air filtration in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
* Using portable air cleaners.
* Turning on exhaust fans and using other fans to improve air flow.
* Turning the thermostat fan to the “ON” position instead of “AUTO” to ensure the HVAC system provides [continuous airflow and filtration](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/Improving-Ventilation-Home.html).

Thanks, and stay healthy!

Safety Committee