

Landline Broadcast from Mayor Steve Clarke on Sept, 16, 2020

Hi. It's Steve Clarke, Mayor of the City of Orillia. I can be reached at mayor@orillia.ca or by phone at 705-325-1311.

And I wanted to reach out to each of you because we are at a critical point in our COVID-19 response.

As a community, Orillia has done extremely well in keeping our case numbers low. That did not happen by mistake, but because our citizens took the pandemic seriously and adhered to the COVID-19 prevention measures in place.

Now is the time not our guard down.

We've witnessed other areas of the country, and beyond, having to reinstate certain lockdown measures to stop the spread of the virus.

Our community cannot afford to go back into a Stage 1 lockdown. The result would be devastating for businesses, families and individuals.

With kids back in school and people returning to work, it is absolutely critical that we continue to stay vigilant and follow all the health and safety measures in place.

Keep your social circles small. Practice physical distancing with anyone outside your social circle. Wash your hands and wear a mask and if you're feeling unwell – get tested.

I know you're tired of the same message. I know you're tired of a pandemic lifestyle. But we have to keep one another accountable in order to protect all of us and certainly our most vulnerable, support our local economy, and keep our kids in school and people working.

None of this can happen if we act as if the virus isn't a big deal – **it is**.

As citizens, you have the power to control the health of our community. By keeping yourself safe and your family safe, you are protecting those around you.

It's that simple. I've said it before and I'll keep saying it – we're all in this together and we will get through this.

Stay safe, stay healthy and we'll talk to you soon.