

For Release Tuesday 8/4/2020

County of Berks / COVID-19 Leadership Team Press Alert

Berks Commissioner's COVID-19 Update will Focus on Masks, Vaccines and what to expect this Fall

Reading, PA— 8/4/2020 — The Berks County Commissioners will host their Media and Public COVID-19 Update on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 3:30PM on Microsoft Teams Live Event.

Click [here](#) to find link to this meeting. This meeting will feature a conversation with two members of the Berks County COVID-19 Medical Advisory Panel about the recommendation to wear masks, any new developments about COVID-19 and a possible vaccine and what we should be expecting as we prepare to enter flu season. This Press Event will also be streamed Live to the Berks County [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

Welcome – Commissioner Christian Leinbach

Comments – Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt

Comments – Commissioner Michael Rivera

Introductions of the Panel – Commissioner Leinbach

- **Dr. Michael Baxter, MD** - Past Chair of Berks County Medical Society. Past Chair of Tower Health Family and Community Medicine
- **Debra Powell, MD** - Section Chief for Infectious Diseases and Medical Director for Infection Prevention at Tower Health/Reading Hospital. *Dr. Powell has been a frequent spokesperson for Tower on issues related to COVID-19 in the media and during town halls and other events.*

The Panel will address the following questions and topics:

1. As medical professionals, can you tell us if wearing a face covering is important? Can you please explain the scientific findings behind the recommendation to wear a mask? Are there any dangers of wearing a mask?

2. Now that we have been in the green phase for more than a month, what other measures should residents be taking to continue to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our community?
3. Are there any new developments you can tell us about COVID-19? Any new symptoms? What is a “superspreader” and what are your thoughts on the recent studies about children being “superspreaders”?
4. Now that we know COVID-19 is not going away soon and flu season is quickly approaching, how do we chart these waters this fall? Are there signs of a predominant flu coming in? Do you have any recommendations for residents to protect themselves from the flu and reduce the chance of getting hit by both that and COVID-19?
5. What benchmarks must be reached in order for to have a vaccine? Do you have any updates about the status of a potential vaccine?

Question and Answers – Facilitated by Commissioner Leinbach

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