

## **Legislative District 14 Update:**

Dear Resident,

This past Monday I joined my fellow Legislators in unanimously voting for “Benny’s Law.” This legislation will create a notification system involving dogs deemed to be labeled dangerous by the courts and hold the owners responsible for alerting neighbors of the threat their dogs pose, offering more protection for dogs and their owners. The bill will be sent to the County Executive for her signature.

Also, on Monday, I supported a local law, passed by the Legislature, that would establish a referendum on Election Day this November for voters to decide whether the county assessor should be a political appointee or an elected official answerable to the public. Following the numerous mistakes that have plagued the reassessment process I again call on the County Executive to accept this good government initiative by letting the people choose whether or not they want an elected assessor.

**On the COVID-19 front:** Earlier this month, I called on Governor Cuomo to open a mass vaccination site at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum similar to the ones he has opened at Yankee Stadium, Citi Field and other New York City locations. So far, those calls have fallen on deaf ears. Please join me in urging the governor to establish this mass vaccination site by signing my petition at the following link: [https://app.nassaucountyny.gov/leg/forms/09/vaccination\\_pet.php?ld\\_code=14](https://app.nassaucountyny.gov/leg/forms/09/vaccination_pet.php?ld_code=14)

Nassau County has done a lot of vaccinating. There are currently one million eligible residents in Nassau County and approximately 227,000 have received their first dose. This is 22% of the eligible population. Of course, we would like those numbers to be higher but we are ahead of many other counties. For example, Suffolk County has administered approximately 187,000 first doses. Also, there have been 33,000 doses administered at Nassau County Health Department PODs whereas Westchester has only administered 11,000.

Overall, case numbers have dropped but they have also plateaued so we cannot let our guard down if we want to continue to see the numbers drop. There are still 500-600 new cases per week and there are plenty of people out there who have not tested so, in reality, those numbers are most likely higher.

As you may have heard, there were a couple of outbreaks in local schools. Manhasset had a very large outbreak of 38 positive COVID cases. This ended their sports season and upon investigation, it was discovered that this uptick was tied to a party that almost all 38 of those who tested positive attended.

The Wantagh high school senior class is not 100% remote because 15 students tested positive and all of those students had attended the same party as well. Obviously, we can see that social gatherings are tricky. Once alcohol is involved, people aren’t necessarily thinking and will remove their masks and not stay socially-distanced.

The good news is that we are about to see the amount of vaccines blossom. Johnson and Johnson should be approved within the next 2 to 3 days. This will be one shot, as opposed to two, which will completely vaccinate you. One shot will make it much easier for mass sites and pharmacies to administer. Hospitals are doing vaccination events as well and within the next few weeks, doctor's offices should start to receive the vaccine.

Since we are starting the month of March with 227,000 people already vaccinated, Dr. Eisenstein, our Department of Health Commissioner, has said that he believes this number will double by the end of March, which is very promising.

As for the variants you may have heard about, our Commissioner tells us that while they are still monitoring the vaccines' effectiveness against them, it appears that for now they are working against most, if not all, variants.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any thoughts and ideas you may have with respect to the County or on any particular issue that you think I may be able to assist you with. You may contact me at (516) 571-6214 or by email at [LSchaefer@NassauCountyNY.gov](mailto:LSchaefer@NassauCountyNY.gov).