## COVID-19 Town of Chester, Connecticut June 2020 Response rate: 32% (n=630/1988)

**Note**: According to the Tax Collector, 150-200 property owners receive their tax bill at a different address than the property. This suggests that as many as 10% (n=199) of the households that received the postcard are not full-time residents of Chester and therefore, the response rate could be as high as 35% (n=630/1789).

 What is the total number of people in your household? *Response rate = 97%* (n=609/630)

People in Household	Number/Percentage
1	109
	(17.9%)
2	274
	(45.1%)
3-4	170
	(28.0%)
5-6	51
	(8.4%
More than 6	5
	(<1.0%)

73.1% (n=442) of households in Chester have either 2 (45.1%; n=274) or 3-4 people (28%; n=170). 18% (n=109) live alone and approximately 10% (n=56) of households have more than 5 people.

2. What are the ages of the people in your household? *Response rate = 96% (n=607/630)* 

Ages of People in Household	Number/Percentage	
Birth-5	40	(6.5%)
6-11	80	(13.1%)
12-14	50	(8.5%)
15-18	56	(9.2%)
19-25	70	(11.5%)
26-35	74	(12.1%)
36-50	163	(26.8%)
51-65	265	(43.6%)
Older than 65	253	(41.6%)

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6.5% (n=40) of households in Chester include young children, birth-5 (infants, toddlers, and preschool children) and 30.5% (n=186) include school-age children, 6-18 years. An almost equal number of households include young adults age 19-25 (n=70; 11.5%) and/or 26-35 (n=74; 12.1%). 26.8% (n=163) include adults 36-50. The majority (85.2%; n=518) of households in Chester include someone older than age 50.

 Do you or a person in your household have responsibility for the care of an elderly relative or other member of your family (e.g., spouse, sibling, or child) with a disability? <u>Response rate = 95% (n=600/630)</u>

76 (12.6%) households in Chester have responsibility for the care of an elderly relative or other member of their family with a disability.

Does this elderly relative or family member with a disability reside in your home or in a residential facility (e.g., nursing home, assisted living, group home)? <u>Response rate =</u> <u>16.2% (N=101/622).</u>

38.6% (n=37+2) of the elderly relatives or family members with a disability live with the household; 26.7% (n=23+4) reside in a residential facility, and 29.7% (n=30) reside in their own home (with or without support).

**Note:** This equals more than 100% because 41 households replied other, but 44 comments were recorded and included in the calculation. 7.9% (n=8) of these comments were not applicable.

5. Are you or a person in your household considered an "essential worker"? <u>Note</u>: According to Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7H, an essential worker includes individuals who work in <u>health care</u>, <u>retail</u> (e.g., grocery store, delivery service, pharmacy}, <u>food and agriculture</u> (e.g., restaurants, farms), <u>service</u> (e.g., child care, financial, insurance, accounting, or legal), <u>safety and sanitation</u> (e.g., police, fire, EMT, trash collection), <u>basic necessities</u> (e.g., shelters, food banks), <u>construction</u>, <u>manufacturing</u>, or <u>defense</u>. <u>Response rate = 93% (n=586/630)</u>

43.8% (n=257) households in Chester have a family member who is considered an essential worker.

- Before COVID-19, what were the PREFERRED activities your household participated in BOTH individually and together? <u>*Response rate = 93% (n-587/630</u>*</u>
- Before COVID-19, what were the SPECIFIC activities your household REGULARLY participated in in Chester? <u>Response rate = 91% (n-573/630)</u>

Activity	Preferred	Chester	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
			(June)	(July)	(August)
Dined out	93.8%	90.3%	x (outdoor)	x (indoor)	
Attended/participated in					
Chester annual/special events		83.2%			х
Attended Chester Farmers					
Market		81.4%			Х
Engaged in outdoor recreation	81.3%				
Enjoyed Cockaponset, Cedar					
Lake, town parks, Laurel Hill,		75.5%	х		
Land Trust					
Shopped	79.3%				
Shopped in downtown Chester		76.5%	x		
Traveled	78.1%		_	_	-
Watched TV	77.9%		-	-	-
Went to movies/concerts/					
theater/casinos;	75.2%			х	х
Attended concerts/live theater		37.7%			
at the Meeting House					
Enjoyed water activities	64.2%		х		
Enjoyed a drink at a bar	61.1%	58.2%			Х
Attended Chester First Friday		50.6%			х
Visited Chester Library		50.6%		х	
Visited art galleries/museums	58.4%	37.5%	x (outdoor)		
Worked out in a gym or fitness	51.2%			х	
studio					
Participated in sports	32.4%			х	
Attended religious services	31.2%	23.0%			х
Volunteered in Chester					
organizations		29.7%			х
Attended/participated in					
Region 4 School District		27.0%			х
Participated in Town Hall				х	
meetings		23.6%			
Played video games	21.1%		-	-	-
Served on Chester Boards,					
Committees, Commissions		18.3%			Х

Q6 and Q7: Percentage of Households' Preferred and Specific Chester Activities

COVID-19 Impact	Number/Percentage of
	Households
NONE	62
	(11.2%)
COVID supplies	311
	(56.3%)
Physical wellbeing	286
	(51.8%)
Time Alone/Socializing with	191
friends and family	(34.6%)
Mental health	181
	(32.7%)
Children/Youth play with	147
friends	(26.6%)
Online education	136
	(24.6%)
Loss of job/income	135
	(24.4%)
Unable to attend religious	115
services	(21.0%)
Food insecurity	60
	(10.8%)
Childcare	30
	(5.4%)
Pay utilities	25
	(4.5%)
Pay mortgage/rent	16
	(2.8%)
Loss of health insurance	5
	(<1.0%)

8. In the **past two months** (April, May), what IMPACT has COVID-19 had on your household? *Response rate = 88% (n=552/630)* 

In the past two months (April, May), which local agencies/organizations or state/federal programs has your household contacted to address the IMPACT of COVID-19? <u>Note</u>: This includes requests for guidance/support, financial assistance, direct services, or access to information/resources. <u>*Response rate = 82.5%* (520/630)</u>.

182 (35%) households contacted local agencies/organizations or state/federal programs to address the impact of COVID-19, while 338 (65%) households did not.

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Local, State, and Federal	Number/Percentage of
Agencies/Programs	Households
CT Department of Labor	78
	(43.0%)
CARES Act	47
	(26.0%)
Legislators (Palm, Needleman)	37
	(20.3%)
Chester Town Hall	30
	(16.5%)
Bank or Credit Union	22
	(12.1%)
Early care and education program and/or	20
Region 4 School District	(11.0%)
Healthcare provider/CT Access	18
	(10.0%)
Community mental health provider	17
	(9.3%)
Faith-based organizations	12
	(6.6%)
211	12
	(6.6%)
Estuary Council of Seniors	11
	(6.0%)
Chester Social Services	7
	(3.9%)
Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries	6
	(3.3%)
Landlord	6
	(3.3%))
Pandemic EBT Program	3
	(1.7%)
Tri-Town Youth Services	0
	(0%)
CT Department of Children and Families	0
	(0%)

10. In the past two months (April, May), how SUCCESSFUL was your household in obtaining the guidance/support, financial assistance, direct services, or access to information/resources that you requested? <u>Response rate = 42% (n=239/573)</u>.

Never	Sometimes	Always
8.3%	31.4%	60.3%
(n=20)	(n=75)	(n=144)

Households that reported <u>sometimes</u> SUCCESSFUL had the option to write in the <u>name</u> of the local agencies/organizations or state/federal programs (listed in Q9) that actually responded to their requests for guidance/support, financial assistance, direct services, or access to information/resources. While 75 households selected <u>sometimes</u> SUCCESSFUL, 98 households added a comment, suggesting that 23 households that selected <u>never</u> or <u>always</u> commented.

The comments from all 98 households were reviewed. 61 households commented that Q10 was not applicable. <u>Note:</u> This question should have been skipped, if the household responded NONE for impact of COVID-19 in Q8. For the remaining 37 comments, the name of local agencies/organizations or state/federal programs was first identified and then the comment was coded positive or negative.

Some households named more than one local agencies/organizations or state/federal programs. Comments included only 4 of 17 (23.5%) agencies/organizations/program: Town of Chester, State Representatives, the CT Department of Labor, and federal government programs. The majority of comments for the Town of Chester (80%), State Representatives (77%), and the federal government, CARES Act (100%) were positive, while the majority of comments for the Department of Labor (92%) were negative. There were 12 Department of Labor comments, 11 negative (i.e., problems associated with applying for unemployment; never receiving unemployment; overpayment with possible penalty) and one positive comment. (i.e., successful application). There were 15 Town of Chester comments, 12 positive (i.e., responsive town officials, Region 4 School District, and Social Services; emails helpful) and 3 negative (i.e., emails not helpful). There were 13 State Representative comments, 10 positive (i.e., informative town halls; regular communication; assistance with Department of Labor), 3 negative (i.e., not responsive, not helpful). Representative Palm was frequently credited for assistance with the CT Department of Labor. All 5 comments related to federal government programs (i.e., CARES, PPP) were positive.

 What is your household's PERCEIVED risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 this summer, during <u>Phase 1</u> (June), <u>Phase 2</u> (July), and <u>Phase 3</u> (August) of Connecticut's reopening? <u>Response rate = 89.5% (n=564/630)</u>.

None	Low	Moderate	High
8.2%	49.6%	33.5%	8.7%
(n=46)	(n=280)	(n=189)	(n=49)

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The majority (83%; n=469) of Chester residents perceive their risk as low (40.6%; n=280) or moderate (33.5%; n=189) of becoming infected with COVID-19 this summer. Less than 10% of residents perceive their risk of COVID-19 infection this summer to be none (8.2%; n=46) or high (8.7%; n-49).

12. On a scale of 1-3, please rate how LIKELY your household is to attend or participate in the following Phase 2 activities in July. <u>Range of response rate = 78.3% (n=493/630) –</u> <u>87.5% (n=551/630)</u>

Activity	Phase 1
	(June)
Engage in outdoor recreation	2.3
Eat in outdoor spaces at restaurants	1.9
Shop at a retail store or mall	1.9
Return to work in an office	1.6
Visit outdoor spaces at museums or zoos	1.6

13. On a scale of 1-3, please rate how LIKELY your household is to attend or participate in the following Phase 2 activities in July. <u>Range of response rate = 79.5% (n=501/630) –</u> <u>87.3% (n=550/630)</u>

Activity	Phase 2 (July)
Engage in personal services (e.g., salons or, barber shop, massage, nails, tattoo parlors)	2.2
Attend an outdoor arts, entertainment, or event (up to 50 people)	1.7
Dine in indoor spaces at restaurants	1.7
Visit the public library	1.7
Go to a gym, fitness studio, or sports club	1.5
Visit indoor spaces at museums, zoos, aquariums	1.4
Attend summer day camps and/or youth sports	1.3
Go to a movie theater	1.3
Participate in social clubs or swim in public pools	1.3
Stay in a hotel	1.3
Go to an outdoor amusement park	1.2
Participate in a non-residential work or clinical program	1.2
Attend a residential undergraduate or graduate program	1.1
Go to a bowling alley	1.1
Enroll in K-12 summer school program	1.1

1=NOT likely; 2=SOMEWHAT likely; and 3=VERY likely

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14. On a scale of 1-3, please rate how LIKELY your household is to attend or participate in the following Phase 3 activities in August. <u>Range of response rate = 84.0% (n=5293/630)</u> <u>– 86.5% (n=545/630)</u>

Phase 3
(August)
1.7
1.6
1.5
1.2

1=NOT likely; 2=SOMEWHAT likely; and 3=VERY likely)

Chester residents appear very consistent in how LIKELY their household is to attend or participate in activities this summer, during Phase 1 (June), Phase 2 (July), and Phase 3 (August). The range of how LIKELY households were to participate was between 1.1, NOT likely, to 2.3, slightly higher than SOMEWHAT likely. Households were SOMEWHAT likely to engage in outdoor recreation (2.3), obtain personal services (2,2), dine in outdoor spaces at restaurants (1.9), shop at a retail store or mall (1.9), attend an outdoor arts, entertainment, or event with 50 -100 people (1.7), dine in indoor spaces at restaurants (1.7), and visit the public library (1.7).

15. What are the MINIMUM precautions necessary for your household to SAFELY participate in the activities associated with <u>Phase 1</u> (June), <u>Phase 2</u> (July), and <u>Phase 3</u> (August) of Connecticut's re-opening? <u>Response rate = 86.8% (n=547/610)</u>

Minimum Safety Precautions to Participate in Activities	Number/Percentage
NONE	53
	(9.7%)
Self-Report	59
	(10.8%)
Evidence	255
	(46.6%)
Temperatures	25
	(4.6%)
Testing/Contact Tracing	84
	(15.3%)
Vaccine	71
	(13.0%)

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Almost 50% (n=255) of households want to see EVIDENCE (e.g., regular cleaning; availability of hand sanitizer; employees wearing masks and gloves; customers wearing masks except when eating; social distancing strictly enforced; limits on number of people allowed) of safety precautions to participate in activities this summer. 20% of households would participate in activities if there were no safety precautions (9.7%) or system of self-report (10.8%), while more than 30% of households would not participate in activities this summer unless temperatures were required (4.6%), there was testing/contact tracing (15.3%) or a vaccine was available (13.0%).

- Please identify four (4) ACTIONS by the Town of Chester that will BEST support your household's recovery from COVID-19. <u>Response rate = 83.2% (n=524/630); Comments = 69.</u>
- Please identify four (4) ACTIONS by the Town of Chester that will BEST support the community's (e.g., friends/neighbors, other residents) recovery from COVID-19.
  <u>Response rate = 77.6% (n=489/630); Comments = 35</u>

Action	Household	Community	Difference
Business	300	323	+23
	(57.2%)	(66.6%)	(9.4%)
Nursing Homes	206	228	+22
	(39.3%)	(46.4%)	(7.1%)
COVID-19 Supplies	212	214	+2
	(40.4%)	(43.7%)	(3.3%)
Education	129	168	+39
	(24.6%)	(34.3%)	(9.7%)
<u>Social Services</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>+54</u>
	<u>(19.8%)</u>	<u>(32.3%)</u>	<u>(12.5%)</u>
Grant Funding	125	149	+24
	(23.8%)	(30.4%)	(6.6%)
Public/Private	164	130	-34
Partnerships	(31.2%)	(26.5%)	(4.7%)
Tours and Trails	179	123	-56
	(34.1%)	(25.1%)	(9.0%)
Resource List	142	117	-25
	(27.0%)	(23.9%)	(3.1%)
Mutual Aid	114	109	-5
	(21.7%)	(22.2%)	(0.5%)
Virtual Communities	58	39	-19
	(11.0%)	(7.9%)	(-3.1%)
Other	41	23	-18
	(7.8%)	(4.7%)	(3.1%)

Q16 and Q17: Four Actions to BEST support Households and the Community

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<u>Businesses</u>, <u>COVID-19 supplies</u>, and <u>nursing homes</u> were rated the three BEST actions to support both households and the community. The fourth action, <u>tours and trails</u> were rated BEST to support households and <u>education</u> was rated BEST to support the community. <u>Social Services</u> had the most significant difference (12.5%; n=54) between actions for households (19.8%; n=104) and the community (32.3%; n-158). The 75 comments in Q16 and Q17 are consistent with these findings. There were 25 comments related to COVID-19, 15 related to tours and trails, 14 related to businesses, 11 related to social services, and 9 related to education.

18. Please share your household's MOST EFFECTIVE strategies (i.e., what worked) to help cope with COVID-19 and sheltering-in-place in the **past two months** (April, May) that you feel will BENEFIT your friends/neighbors and the Chester community. *This may include "words of wisdom", guidance, advice, and/or resources.* Consider sharing ideas for (1) talking with children/youth about COVID-19, masks, and social distancing, why they are unable to play with friends, spend time with extended family, gather in large groups; (2) expressing emotions (e.g., happiness/sadness, disappointment, excitement, fear, anxiety, stress, grief, death and dying); (3) showing kindness and gratitude; (4) dealing with isolation, loneliness, boredom; (5) spending quality time together and finding time to be alone; and (6) fun activities, games, books, and toys to entertain children/youth and books, movies, games, and other activities to engage adults. *Please include links or specific references to information/resources, if available.* **Response rate = 41.9% (n=264/630)** 

41.9% (n=264) of households shared "words of wisdom", guidance, advice, and/or the resources that helped them cope with COVID-19 and sheltering-in-place in April and May. All of the comments were coded. It was possible for comments to include more than one theme. 7.5% (n=20) were not applicable. Five major themes emerged: <u>outdoor recreation activities</u>, <u>COVID-19 safety precautions</u>, <u>the importance of connecting with friends/families</u>, <u>ideas for spending time (alone, together, and with family</u>), and the benefits of <u>spiritual/religious practices</u>. 32.9% (n=87) households recommneded outdoor recreation, including birding, fishing, walking (with or without a dog), hiking, biking, and playing golf.

28.4% (n=75) households shared various safety precautions to help protect them from COVID-19 infection, including staying home, following CDC guidelines, ordering groceries online, using no contact pick-up or delivery services, shopping during senior hours, regular hand washing, wearing masks and gloves, practicing social distancing, using hand sanitizer, cleaning with disinfectant, and waiting several days before opening mail and/or packages.

35.2% (n=93) households emphasized the importance arranging virtual meetings with family and friends (n=75), spending family time (n=19), or gathering in small groups/creating a social pod (n=19). Some suggestions for family time included puzzles,

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scrabble, and board games. Virtual gatherings with family/friends often involved movie nights, trivia games, and happy hours. Creating a social pod, that is, gathering in small group (of families or friends who are taking similar safety precautions) allowed for socialization among the adults, while children played GoNoddle games (<u>https://www.gonoodle.com/</u>) or enjoyed scavenger hunts.

Other ideas for spending time alone, together, and with family included hobbies/ projects/home improvement (n=35) that suddenly there was time to complete, reading (n=30), watching TV (n=27), exercising (n=23), cooking (n=24), gardening (n=16), watching movies (n=13), listening to music (n=9), playing video games (n=9), enrolling in virtual classes (n=7), or shopping online (n=4). Among the 27 households who spent time watching TV, 10 (37%) suggested limiting or avoiding the news! 8.3% (n=22) of households reported spending time working or going to school.

8.3% (n=22) households mentioned feelings of sadness, anger, anxiety, and stress; struggling with depression, experiencing a sense of isolation, and being fearful of becoming COVID positive, as well as the challenges of talking with children/teenagers about death/dying. Many households found comfort by making a commitment to express gratitude, be kind, practice meditation, or reflection (n=38), participating in volunteer work/mutual aid (n=30), and through faith and a connection to religion/church (n=10).

19. If there is ANYTHING about your household, re-opening Chester and Connecticut, and/or recovery from COVID-19 that we did NOT ask and you would like to share with the <u>Re-Open Chester Group</u>, please write your comments here. <u>Response rate = 25.6%;</u> <u>n=161/630)</u>

25.6% (n=161/630) of households had additional comments regarding the re-opening Chester and Connecticut, and/or recovery from COVID-19. All of the comments were coded. It was possible for comments to include more than one theme. Three major themes emerged: <u>Chester</u>; <u>COVID-19</u>; and the <u>survey</u>.

Of the 39% (n=63/161) of households that mentioned <u>COVID-19</u>, the majority (92%; n=58/63) discussed <u>safety concerns/precautions</u> necessary to re-open (e.g., timing, importance of standard procedures, interest in disinfecting equipment at Cedar Lake or the parks, use of masks, availability of testing, need for contact tracing).

I feel we should set up our own tracing system in conjunction with the state or surrounding towns or on our own - using volunteers. I would be glad to volunteer. I think the town should set up a testing site in a vacant store downtown or outside one so anyone who wants a test can get it. This also might attract people back to the town center. The town should buy the correct wipes and sell them at cost to residents.

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I think that as the Town reopens there should be a set of rules or requirements that need to be met by all businesses so that customers can feel comfortable that every shop or restaurant they visit is adhering to the same guidelines. This could be state guidelines or a separate set developed by the town. Should somehow be inspected and enforced at least through the rest of the reopening stages. If one person visiting town becomes infected due to negligence by one shop or restaurant it will negatively impact the entire town.

I'm honestly just a little worried that we'll end up right back where we started. Nothing has really changed. The virus is still out there, there isn't a fool proof treatment plan, nor a vaccine. So, I'm likely going to continue staying home as much as possible for a while. If works calls me back to the office, I'll go of course. But I'm not heading to any indoor places any time soon.

Take your time! I know we're all itching to get back to normal and our businesses are suffering, but please don't rush reopening. The setback of a second wave of COVID would (will) have more of a long-term effect than pushing back reopening a few weeks (e.g., schools being able to reopen in the fall, etc.). As an elementary school parent, we desperately want our community to do whatever possible to have our schools reopen in the fall. Not just for our home life, but because the learning and socializing of our kids is suffering for it. We can't do what our wonderful CES educators can! Thank you.

Only 8% (n=5/63) of households suggested Chester simply re-open.

It would really be nice if people treated the citizenship as the adults that they are. We all know the risks, precautions, and information. It would be nice if we could make the decisions that are right for us and our families without the government trying to "do what's best for us" as though we aren't capable of figuring that out. It is really frustrating trying to navigate through the ever-changing maze of rules and red tape to be able to try to slowly resume normal life.

Of the 45% (n=72) of households that mentioned <u>Chester</u>, 36% (n=26) referred to <u>downtown Chester</u>, 18% (n=13) <u>newsletter/emails</u>, and 13% (n=9) <u>Cedar Lake</u>. A few households mentioned the <u>schools</u> (6%; n=4), <u>library</u> (4%; n=3), and <u>Sunday Market</u> (3%; n=2). <u>Downtown Chester</u> comments included the importance of supporting businesses and restaurants (n=11), questions related to timing of the construction project (n=8), and interest in creating an open space in the downtown area (n=7).

We need to do all we can to make sure the businesses in Chester are supported through this pandemic and are still here when we get out of this. Would hate to lose these mainstays to our vibrant community.

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We think it is important to maintain the character of the town. There are currently a number of empty retail spaces in Chester Center. Perhaps the town can place an focus on marketing Chester to potential artisans, crafters or to people who might open a business such as a retail shop of art and craft supplies, bakery or pastry shop, tea room, something that reflects the New England small town appeal that will bring people to Chester. Definitely these potential retail spaces should not be occupied by businesses such as lawyers, insurance agents, wealth management advisors or accountants. No one is going to travel to Chester to stroll down the street to admire the signs of such businesses.

No one could have predicted COVID-19 but spring/summer is our busy downtown time and ANY CONSTRUCTION should have been planned with that in mind.

The slow speed of the downtown project will do more harm than Covid-19. Expedite the project. A healthy downtown with community events this summer will benefit the entire town.

I would love to suggest making Main Street (where the shops are) a car free zone. This will allow our community to adapt and connect. I know this has been up for discussion during the Main Street project redesign, but I feel it's a missed opportunity not too. The uniqueness of our downtown as a 'village square' where people can relax and meet up, kids can run around and play, and dogs are welcome. Insert some European 'terrace' culture where we are able to enjoy music and art from our local artisans, while giving the merchants opportunity to increase selling and visibility to new customers. The square would be an opportunity to offer newness and excitement to the town so people will come check out on regular base what's going on!

<u>Cedar Lake</u> comments were primarily associated with restrictions/rules and regulations (n=4), the need to monitor out of town guests (n=3), and changes in hours of operation (n=2).

The current restrictions on the use of Cedar Lake are egregious and ill-conceived. Prohibiting use of the park before and after the lifeguards' shifts is wrong. Our understanding is that this is to allow benches and tables to be disinfected. If given the choice between use of benches and tables or access to the lake, we would choose access. Benches and tables can be stored until the pandemic subsides. Remove the gate and allow taxpayers to have unfettered access to the amenities that they are entitled to. Chester's obsession with risk mitigation has become absurd.

If the front beach is going to be monitored and limited with timing and capacity, then the side beach will also need monitoring for all the overflow. Non-residents are frequenting the side beach and making it hard for residents to safely use the swimming area.

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All (100%) of the town of Chester newsletter/emails comments were positive.

Finally, I have to give Kudos to our First Selectperson, Lauren Gister for her daily Newsletter which contains very relevant and supportive information along with a lovely cartoon or verse to lighten your day. Thank you for this. I have found it very helpful.

The following improvements to Chester were suggested by one household: (1) the need for overnight accommodations; (2) use of the Fairgrounds for events/activities; (3) building tennis courts; (4) creating a community garden; (5) hosting concerts in the park; (5) developing trails from Laurel Hill to North Quarter Park and Carini Preserve; and (6) creating a country market at Key Bank. Several households reflected on the "silver lining", the positive changes in Chester associated with COVID-19.

We should take this opportunity to reflect on how Chester has improved in the time of COVID-19. There are more bicycles on the road than ever before. Parents are spending time with their children in many of our outdoor facilities. Residents are using their time to plant gardens......taking long walks through the village, around Jennings Pond, into Carini and Laurel Hill Cemetery. And I've never seen so many canoes and kayaks along Chester Creek. At a time when Chester is so focused on parking spaces and businesses, we instead need to focus on the community that makes Chester a great place to live. Chester should be a pedestrian village, a destination where there is more than drinking and eating out. Let's be bold and convert Main Street into something more enticing than simply newly paved roads and new curbs. Let's rise above other towns and create a Chester that puts people first.....

Of the 9% (n=15) of households that mentioned the survey, 53% (n-8) comments were positive (e.g., thank you, great/excellent survey) and 47% (n=7) offered advice or described technical difficulties. In addition, 32 (20%) households reported that they had nothing more to add by responding "no" or "nothing" or "NA (not applicable).

20. If you would like to contribute to <u>*Re-Open Chester*</u> (e.g., attend a virtual focus group, volunteer for a community action committee, and/or make a donation), please write your name, email address, and telephone number here.

47 households, which included 7 couples for a total of 54 individuals are interested in contributing to <u>*Re-Open Chester*</u>. In addition to participating in focus groups or serving on community action teams, 3 households offered to make a donation.