



## April 5th Mayor's Message: Choose Positive – and Look for the Helpers

*When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'* This quote always heartens me, especially in these challenging times, especially during the pandemic.

Look for the helpers. Look for health care workers. Look for our public health workers. They are the ones stepping up where others haven't to slow the spread of the virus, keep the community safe, and help us reopen safely and responsibly.

From the agonizing decisions in the early days of the pandemic; to education and advocacy efforts; to partnering with local schools, businesses, event leaders and others around reopening plans; to working with our neighbors to deliver testing and vaccines, the South Milwaukee and St. Francis Health Department -- and many others across the county, state and country -- have fought the battle against COVID-19 on the front lines.

They have risen to the challenge. Has it been perfect? Of course not. Have we learned along the way? Absolutely. But that's what comes with a generational challenge like this.

You make the best decisions you can with the information you have, anchored in science, adapting along the way, and keeping the best interest of the community in mind. Our health department -- and I -- have done that for over a year, and we'll continue to do that as we vaccinate our city and move to a new normal.

This virus has torn us apart. Mask, no mask. Vaccinate, don't vaccinate. Reopen, stay closed. You don't have to look far to see how divided we've become -- at a time when unity is needed more than ever. That is sad to me.

But I choose positivity during these difficult times. I choose the vision of the health department, choose to get behind their work to ensure we are "empowered to live well."

I choose to look for the helpers. Let's all look for the helpers.

Information on the COVID-19 Vaccine can be found [on our website](#).