

**Dear MDSA members:**

Swimming in our lake has been wonderful so far this year, especially for those of us who are not fond of frigid water. **BUT**, we are faced with a very important task. **We have to keep each other safe from becoming ill in this Pandemic.**

**COVID-19 can be deadly and IT IS NOT OVER.**

Even as we write, there's been a small spike in cases in Ulster County. We do not need news reports like the one attributing nearly 20 cases to one post-graduation party. We do not need news articles naming the MDSA swimming club as the source of a new "cluster" of infections. If this were to happen, would we even be permitted to continue to swim?

Could this happen? Some of us believe it could. Some of us believe it can't and are not following the precautions we have asked our members to follow at our beach: **WEAR A MASK! STAY A SAFE DISTANCE APART. Do not come down to the beach without a mask on.**

- We are observing small groups of people, especially at the far end of our area, clustering together, without a mask in sight. They are surely not all sheltering together under one roof!
- It is not impossible for the COVID-19 virus to be transmitted outdoors if someone with an as yet asymptomatic infection is talking for a long time with one or more others. We are learning more about this virus almost daily and about possible mutations which could make it more easily transmitted and even more dangerous than it is.
- There is increasing evidence that younger physically fit people cannot only catch COVID-19, but can suffer complications that could undermine their health and impair their lives for years. There is evidence that the virus can harm nearly every organ in the body, especially the brain and the kidneys. **We HAVE to take this seriously.**

**AND, BE PATIENT!**

We also need to stoke our ability to **be PATIENT when caught in slow traffic** entering the park.

- We received a complaint from park management that a self-identified member was giving a park ranger a hard time because she got so frustrated at the slow progress of her car. **THIS IS NOT COOL.**
- We do not get special treatment because we belong to MDSA. Just the opposite, we have to understand the pressure the park staff are under and not expect special treatment.
- Many of us who come in the afternoon have not had problems getting in, and others in the early morning. **But the watchword is PATIENCE!!!**

**Stay well.**

**Swimmingly yours,**

**Judy Mage and Stephanie Bludau Tor, MDSA Co-coordinators**