

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Pandemic - Uneasy Feeling

June 20, 2020. We arrived home last night after spending 4 days visiting with Nora and family in Seaside/Seagrove, Florida. It was a treat to see the four Shea grandkids and the Shean family, but it was also eye-opening to observe how the virus was being treated differently at a beach resort. The majority of people weren't following social distancing protocols and not wearing masks. The whole scene was startling and left me with an **uneasy feeling**. In fact I feel less safe today than I did three months ago when the country went into lockdown.

This afternoon I watched the PGA Tour golf on TV, as I did last weekend. Both weekend events were conducted without fans and aside from the lack of crowd noise, the golf is live, competitive and entertaining; a nice way to spend a day in the safety of our home. The PGA Tour seemed to find the right formula for protecting players. However, this week one of the pro golfers tested positive for COVID-19 and the golfers reported that the Hilton Head Island, South Carolina community was crowded and wide-open; much like we encountered this past week in Seaside, FL.

The count of new cases of COVID-19 in Florida has been increasing every day at an alarming rate. Around June 1 there were about 600 new cases per day and in a 3 week period that number has shot up to over 4000 per day. What is most disconcerting is the reaction of state politicians and the general public to these alarming numbers; they are determined to remain reckless.

On TV we are witnessing mass "Black Lives Matter" rallies and the President held an in-stadium political rally in Oklahoma. In both instances social distancing guidelines have been totally disregarded. What is even goofier, the wearing of masks has become politicized. The Trumpers following their leader refuse to wear masks while Democrats are covering their faces.

Colleges have begun to welcome their football players back to campus to begin training for the upcoming season. Both LSU and Clemson reported that a third of their players tested positive for COVID-19. Spring (really summer) training sites for major league baseball have started up and encountered the same issue of players testing positive, have had to close down.

I still feel OK to go to the local Publix Market in Jupiter to pick up groceries; all the help and customers are wearing masks and maintaining appropriate distance from each other. At the Publix I went to in northern Florida last week it was the complete opposite; no masks and no social distancing. I fear this stupid lack of concern for others is spreading fast and will predictably result in a disasterous increase in the spread of the virus. Good reason to fear the **uneasy feeling** will be around for a long time.