

Dear Quogue Residents,

During a day working at home yesterday, I was confronting some fairly depressing things, such as: the newly-released *New Yorker* videos of the January 6<sup>th</sup> Capitol invasion that, while largely confirmatory of previous reports, added some further previously unseen details of the rioters rummaging through the U.S. Senate chamber, a test run of the New York vaccine website to confirm again that there are no appointments available at the Long Island mass vaccination sites at Stony Brook and Jones Beach, and an announcement of a letter from Governor Cuomo to the CEO of Pfizer seeking to buy vaccine directly from Pfizer two days before a new Democratic President will take office (so much for a coordinated Federal response to the coronavirus). Then later in the day, at 4:00 pm, I tuned in to the Annual Commemorative Ecumenical Service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. normally held at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Quogue but this year held virtually on Zoom. No choir this year, but after listening to a soloist's performance of *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, readings of the eloquent, hopeful words of Dr. King, the keynote speech of Rev. Gale Williams and a closing rendition of *We Shall Overcome*, I was definitely feeling better and optimistic that we would all get through this together.

There is not too much news that you have not already heard on the national and local news or read in the newspapers. The new UK variant of the coronavirus is present in Suffolk County. It is far more transmissible than the earlier version, and so you should pay even closer attention to precautionary measures: wear a mask, keep a distance from others, avoid gatherings and wash your hands often.

The Quogue count of covid-19 cases has crept up a few in the last 10 days to 40.

I am not sure what to say about the vaccines other than to be patient. Hopefully supplies will increase over time. Keep checking in with your doctor and, if you are 65 or older with your pharmacy. They are very likely to become the main distribution outlet for older people because their eligibility is easily verified with a driver license.

To try to schedule an appointment at a State-run vaccination site, you can use <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/> or call the NYS Vaccination Hotline at 1-833-NYS-4VAX (1-833-697-4829).

If you want all available information about the vaccines check out <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-tracker>.

Tonight the Biden inaugural committee is asking the country to place candles in windows at 5:30 pm to remember and honor the victims of Covid-19. See this link for details: <https://bidenaugural.org/covidmemorial/>

Hang in there,

Peter Sartorius  
Mayor