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P.O. BOX 515 • TELL CITY, IN 47586 • PHONE: 812-547-5511 • FAX: 812-547-5111

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Although I can almost say with certainty - this news I am about to report will be disheartening to most, I also feel you will understand it to be inevitable and obviously necessary at this time for safety reasons, related to the pandemic we are facing. Let me begin by saying this decision is being made, first and foremost, to uphold the protection, safety and health of the children and families in our community! It is also a decision that was not made lightly or without deep thought and consideration.

With that being said, we will be closing off all public playgrounds to the public, effective immediately. This is only to include the playground equipment itself and NOT the actual, physical parks or walking trails, etc. As we continue to see an increase in transmission of COVID-19, across our State and our Nation, it is important that we are acting in a proactive manner to get ahead of this crisis - so that not even one citizen's safety is compromised, due to our lack of prevention efforts. If and/or when COVID-19 impacts our community directly, and at this time THERE ARE NO POSITIVE CASES REPORTED, I want to be able to say to each and every citizen that I took ALL preventative measures, within my powers possible, to protect my community - which is why this decision is being made!

The decision to close playgrounds and restrict playground equipment use to the general public is a TEMPORARY measure only, I promise. During the closure we will enact strict, deep cleaning processes to take place at all parks to continue ensuring your safety. I ask that you continue to be mindful of Governor Holcomb's and the CDC's restrictions on public gatherings and the use of social distancing in public. These orders that are given by State and Federal officials are not meant to control or disrupt our lives, they are meant to PROTECT AND SAVE LIVES.

Let us continue working together, as the united and resilient community that we have proven ourselves to be in the past - so that we can fight this virus off for good, and hopefully return to the lives and routines that we were once used to, in the near future! We CAN and we WILL get through this together! Let us work with each other, not against each other in the days that are ahead, even though I know tension and fear is running high. We will NOT be defeated or compromised by COVID-19, we are **#TellCityStrong**

Mayor Chris Cail

[www.tellcity.in.gov](http://www.tellcity.in.gov)