

March 15<sup>th</sup> marks one year from the press release of the first PCR positive case of the virus which causes COVID. Within 2 weeks we will likely reach 5000 cases and 200 deaths in Franklin. In that year many of us have learned about virology and immunology in ways we never imagined. We know the functional meaning of PCR, Corona, spike protein, antigen testing, monoclonal antibodies, replication rates, the list goes on.

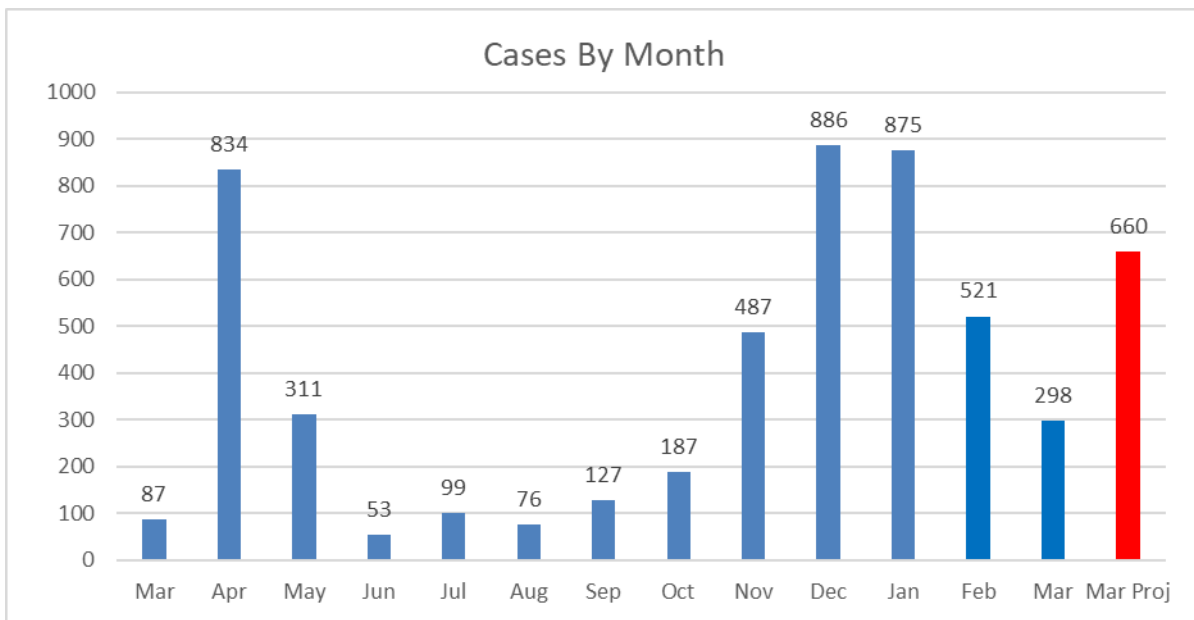
We have all sacrificed and lost something, our freedoms both to rules and to nature, loved ones or at least the time we spent with them, money, and innocents. It's said, we don't appreciate our health until we lose it. We didn't appreciate our freedom of movement until we lost it. There are grandparents who have not hugged their grandchildren for a year.

People of both opinions agree we have witnessed the politicizing of the pandemic even though we disagree who is doing the politicizing. We have seen the miracles of our science produce multiple vaccines yet have suffered the angst of their limited supply.

And we wait. We wait for a better time a return to normal. A release from fear.

It is coming. You have sacrificed so much to get this far. Please don't give up now. If we hold on, we will be in a much better situation soon.

I worry however our impatience will get the better of us. The graph below indicates the projection for March infections (Mar Proj = 660) as an increase over February. We are so close. Let's not give up our hard-earned gains. If you haven't been vaccinated keep trying even though it's frustrating. More vaccine is coming. And please continue to stay safe and keep others safe as well.



Beginning with the first meeting I chaired as Mayor I have ended each meeting with the phrase, "Be well Franklin." It is my greatest wish for you. Please, your actions will decide if we in fact will get there.