

KNOWING THE NUMBERS by Nancy Cramer

This is vital information for what you can do--- and cannot do--- and must not do---during the oncoming Second Surge of the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Now I am not a medical doctor, or a virus specialist, or a researcher. I am just a Good Old Jane who wants to help her fellow Americans during this significant next phase by providing a lighter touch to a truly serious event in our history. You are prepared now to listen and learn.

Number 1- Wear a face mask when out of the house. That means going to the garage to take the trash. To the outhouse, if you still have one. Walking the dog. Walking the child. Walking the wife or husband. Pushing Grandma in a wheel chair with brakes, of course. You might stop for a moment, take your hands off the handles, and Grandma would go spinning down the sidewalk. Wheeee!

Number 2- When you buy or make a mask, be sure it is light colored preferably with a design of apple blossoms or other floral design. DO NOT make or buy a mask that is black. In the first place, most people don't look good in black and second, some nervous store owner might call a more nervous police officer, and you are headlines for tomorrow's paper. Do I make my point?

Number 3- Make as few trips as possible in your car. You will be amazed at how little gasoline you have to buy. Also how the tread on the tires is still thick enough to insert a nickel- well, a dime will do also. If we all conserve on gasoline, we will make the environmentalists happy at last, and the oil barons will be frustrated and discover some other way to get into our pockets

Number 4- Be careful when and where you sing. Your voice is made up of droplets that increase six fold when you sing rather than speak. Think of all those viruses tumbling out of your throat into your neighbor's face. So sing in the shower, sing while driving (watch for other singing drivers) or sing at the supper table if your family will let you. Just don't sing in a choir, barbershop quartet, or drinking buddies. Let the birds chirp, the dogs bark, and cats go meeeeeee-ow. That's enough noise for all.

Number 5- Avoid assemblies. Stick to assembling a tinker toy set. It will bring back fond memories of your childhood when you and a sibling assembled a castle but couldn't agree on where to put the tower. That was a fun time, wasn't it? No? well, skip the tower in your castle. Oh, you meant assembly of people. That's different. Keep it under 10, especially if they are all inlaws- unless you are lucky to have inlaws you really like. Otherwise, wait until Christmas.

I am sure there is a Number 6, but space is limiting my purveyance of wisdom to you. Don't know the word, don't worry, just give a chuckle or giggle and let's have a light hearted moment while we are making history. Our great grands will read about it and think how brave and courageous we were. We were brave, eh? Courageous also? Or just caught up in a pandemic and doing our best. There, that's it. Yes, we are doing our best, each and everyone.