



December 15, 2020

Dear Danville Area Chamber Members,

It has certainly been a frustrating week as the County has ordered limited retail operations and take-out only options at our restaurants. This was due to an increase in cases – particularly in Danville.

The unfortunate thing is the timing, during holidays when people thrive on shopping local and dining at our outstanding local restaurants.

Though the County hopes that this will be our last surge with COVID-19 vaccines on the way, it still hurts small businesses and the economic health of our community.

Restaurants have been especially hard hit by the most recent Health Order. The vast majority of restaurants in Danville have done their best to voluntarily comply, even when orders changed with little advance notice. The Town of Danville has asked the County for contact tracing information, since businesses owners have indicated that they are not aware of any cases being tracked back to outdoor dining. We all want to know if such statistics exist.

There is a need for more funding from the State and from Congress to help small businesses get through. Action is required from our legislative leaders as well as our congressional representatives. Right now, word is that congressional leaders are closing in on a roughly \$900 billion COVID-19 relief deal and another round of CARES Act funding – relief desperately needed by our small businesses.

As we move into the holidays, my message is this: **Don't lose hope and please support Danville Area business.**

We truly are all in this together. The positive impact we can have to help our retail and restaurants during the holidays is to shop local and online at our local businesses. Ordering take-out and picking up your meals rather than delivery also helps, since delivery companies take up to 30% of each order. I am taking every opportunity I can to shop local and I hope you will too.

Don't hesitate to reach out to me at ceo@danvilleareachamber.com if I can help in any way.

Wishing you a joyful and Happy Holidays – stay safe out there!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping 'J' and a simple 'dy'.

Judy B. Lloyd
President & CEO