



**April 8, 2020**  
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**For Immediate Release**

**NineStar's Fiber Network Handling Extra Traffic With Ease**

While some copper and cable networks are straining under the extra load of internet traffic caused by the current pandemic crisis, NineStar's fiber optic network serving all of its members and customers in east-central Indiana is holding up to the extra traffic that businesses, stay-at-home workers, e-learning students, and Netflix bingers can throw at it. This is a huge benefit to those living in Hancock County and portions of surrounding counties served by NineStar.

Total usage is up over 58% in March, 2020 verses March 2019. The second half of March, 2020 saw a 767 Terabyte increase in traffic over the first half of March. To put this in perspective, 767 Terabytes is equivalent to 171,128 high definition DVD movies. And NineStar's network is scaled to handle much more traffic that what is being used today.

"Twenty years ago, we started investing in fiber-to-the-home technology when people were still mostly using dial-up internet connections, knowing that our members and customers would require much more bandwidth someday," states Michael Burrow, President & CEO of NineStar Connect. "Today, we are fortunate to be reaping the benefits of that long view and I am particularly thankful to all of our coop members who have supported our long-term investments in infrastructure that benefits both current and future residents of our community."