

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

APRIL 13, 2021

1. COVID-19 UPDATES FROM THE HEALTH DIRECTOR –

The State reported 1,376 new cases yesterday – 43 of those in Barnstable County. As of today, there are 47 positive cases in Dennis. The Cape and Islands continue to experience a third-wave surge in cases. This surge in new cases is assumed to be associated in part with the arrival and spread of the P1 and B117 variants.

Half of all Towns on Cape are now categorized as high risk, “red” communities, including Dennis, which has the highest positivity rate on the Cape at 9.77% based on data collected over the past 14 days.

The County reports evidence of transmission in schools, daycares and colleges as well as some clusters associated with participation in sports and social gatherings. However, the greatest incidence of transmission appears now to be occurring within the home between members of the same household.

Vaccination efforts continue across the State and the County at this time. However today the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a statement regarding the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine recommending a pause in its use until a review of the vaccine is completed. This is in response to an extremely rare occurrence of potentially dangerous blood clots, which have been reported in 6 individuals nationwide.

Barnstable County has stopped the use of the J&J vaccine as of today. Clinics scheduled for this week using the J&J vaccine have been cancelled. All other clinics hosted by Barnstable County will continue to use the Pfizer vaccine.

More than 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine have been administered in the United States, the vast majority with little to no side effects.

Individuals who recently received this vaccine within the last three weeks or so should contact their health care provider if they experience severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, shortness of breath, or have any further questions or concerns.

Collaboration between the Dennis Health Department, Outer Cape Health, Dennis Council on Aging, and the Dennis Fire Department, resulted in administering 43 doses of the COVID vaccine to our home-bound residents in Dennis. The home-bound vaccination effort provided the Fire Department with an opportunity during the 15-minute evaluation period to conduct a home safety inspection which included checking smoke detectors and providing battery replacement if needed. Each individual was also given a vial of life kit.

Beginning Monday April 19, 2021, vaccine eligibility will be open to anyone, 16 years of age or older, who works, lives or studies in MA.

Working with the Dennis Fire Department, the Health Department again in partnership with Outer Cape Health will be operating a vaccine clinic in the coming weeks for Town Employees and Employees of the Dennis Water District who wish to be vaccinated.

Regionally, Barnstable County continues to operate high through-put vaccination clinics routinely at Cape Cod Community College and the Falmouth Fairgrounds with occasional vaccine administration occurring at the Orleans DPW and the National Seashore site in Eastham. Though operating as regional clinics, appointments at all these clinics are not town specific. Rather, registration is open to any eligible MA resident. In addition to the weekly allocations provided to Barnstable County by the State, the Federal Government continues to directly supply local pharmacies with a separate and distinct supply of vaccine. Appointments for vaccination at any mass vaccination site, regional vaccination clinic or participating pharmacy can be made at the following link on-line: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>

Kristen Keller, Health Director

2. STORYWALK

The Dennis Libraries are going to install a bilingual book (Spanish and English) called "Waiting for the Biblioburro" for April school vacation week and beyond. The plan is to have the StoryWalk in place on Friday, April 16th before vacation begins. Stayed tuned for more information to be released shortly on this wonderful and creative programming by the Dennis Libraries.

3. FIREFIGHTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

I am pleased to share, the Governor has informed the Dennis fire department has been selected for an FY21 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Award in the amount of \$14,999.52.

The funds will be used to purchase a rigid hull inflatable, trailer and motor to assist in Swan Pond and other ponds and lakes. In addition, the grant will cover; battery operated lighting and power tools.

4. ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION UPDATES -

Terri Bunce, Town Clerk has a few updates for the upcoming Annual Town Election;

Date of the ATE: May 11, 2021

Polling Hours: 12 noon – 6:00 pm

Precinct Locations are as follows:

- Precinct 1: Carleton Hall, 1006 Old Bass River Road, Dennis
- Precinct 2: Dennis Senior Center, 1045 Route 134, East Dennis
- Precinct 3: Dennis Public Library, 5 Hall St., Dennis Port
- Precinct 4: 1867 West Dennis Graded School House, 67 School Street, West Dennis
- Precinct 5: Dennis Police Station, 90 Bob Crowell Road, South Dennis

**Precinct 2 is returning to the Dennis Senior Center. For those Voting in Precinct 2, please enter the parking lot by the Route 134 entrance and park in the lower rear parking lot. Post cards, with this information, are going out in the mail later this week.

Vote-By-Mail applications: are available through the Town Clerk's website and in front of the Town Hall.

Track my Ballot: This will be the first time that the Secretary of State's Office has set up a Track-my-ballot system for Local Elections. The website is: www.trackmyballotMA.com

This website will show:

1. That the application has been received.
2. When the Ballot has been mailed from the Town Clerk's Office.
3. When the Ballot has been received by the Town Clerk's office.

Please note, for those who have applied, ballots will be mailed later this week. Also, Vote-by-Mail ballots will be processed at the 5 Polling Locations on Election day.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's office at (508) 760-6112.

5. ROUTE 28 ROADWORK –

Town Engineer, Tom Andrade provided an update on this project; the final work on the Route 28 Dennisport project started last week. The contractor is scheduled to complete the landscaping and sidewalk paving in the next several weeks and the road paving is scheduled for the first couple weeks in May. Once the paving is complete, there will be a walkthrough and a punch list prepared for any remaining work. If all goes well, the project should be completed before the summer season.

As a bonus, MassDOT separately has started to mill and overlay the section of Route 28 from Route 134 to the Dennisport project limits. This section is in very poor condition. Once complete, all of Route 28 in Dennisport will be newly paved.

6. THE CAPE COD COMMISSION IS PLEASED TO PRESENT THE SECOND ROUND OF ITS COVID-19 RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY WORKSHOP SERIES,

An initiative designed to assist business owners in navigating the economic impacts of the pandemic and planning for future resiliency. This round of virtual workshops will introduce industry-specific COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency Toolkits that offer business owners a suite of strategies tailored to address the challenges facing Cape Cod businesses.

We would greatly appreciate your support in sharing this information with businesses in your community and networks.

The industry-specific resilience toolkit webinar series schedule is as follows:

- April 26 at 3:00 PM: Food Service & Restaurant Businesses
- April 28 at 3:00 PM: Retail & Product-Based Businesses
- April 29 at 6:00 PM: Accommodations Businesses
- May 3 at 4:00 PM: Arts, Culture & Recreation Businesses
- May 4 at 3:00 PM: Service-Based Businesses

All interested Cape Cod business owners are invited to attend this free workshop series, but space is limited, and registration is required. Business owners unable to attend their own industry's workshop are encouraged to participate in a different workshop that fits their schedule. More information and registration details are available at capecodcommission.org/business.

7. DENNIS BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES –

The Town of Dennis currently has vacancies on the Boards and Committees listed below. If you are interested in serving on a Board or Committee, please go to <https://www.mapsonline.net/dennisma/forms/tablet.html.php?id=631154060> to fill out a Talent Bank Form.

1867 West Dennis Graded Schoolhouse
Advisory Committee on Disabilities
Agricultural Commission
Alternative Energy Advisory Committee
Arts and Cultural Council
Beach Management Advisory Task Force
Board of Assessors
Caleb Chase Fund
Caretakers of Veterans Graves
Climate & Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee
Council on Aging
CPC Act Committee
Dennis Port Revitalization Committee
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Donald Trepte Committee
Henry Boles Committee
Human Services Advisory Committee
Jericho Committee
Josiah Dennis Manse
Library Board
Memorial Day Observance/Parade
Municipal Affordable Housing Trust
OKH Historic District
Recreation Commission
South Dennis Historic Commission
Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council
Tourism Committee
Water Quality Advisory Committee
Zoning Board of Appeals
Zoning By-Law Study Committee

For more information, please contact the Select Board office at (508) 760-6104.

Have a great rest of the week - please take good care!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan

Town Administrator