

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

APRIL 27, 2021

1. COVID-19 UPDATES FROM THE HEALTH DIRECTOR –

There were 17 new positive cases reported in Barnstable County yesterday and 2 new cases reported in Dennis. The Town is actively monitoring a total of 20 cases at this time. Four Towns on Cape Cod remain in the high-risk “red” category, including Dennis, Yarmouth, Brewster and Harwich though test positivity rates are falling. The County reports testing resources on Cape Cod are currently adequate to meet demand. In addition, though hospitalization rates did increase with the recent surge in positive cases, the County reports the rate of increase was less than seen in prior surges and Health Care resources on Cape were adequate to meet the demand presented.

Vaccination efforts continue across the State and the County at this time with almost 60% of Cape Cod residents having received at least one dose of vaccine to date, including 89% of all residents over the age of 65. In the Town of Dennis, 64% of all residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

All three FDA approved vaccines are again available on Cape Cod. These include the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine, as well as the single dose J&J Janssen vaccine, which was reintroduced on Saturday, April 24th, 2021, following a thorough safety review by the Federal Government.

As of April 19, 2021, all residents over the age of 16 are eligible to receive a vaccination. The County continues to operate a vaccination clinic at Cape Cod Community College and the Falmouth Fairgrounds with occasional clinics occurring at the Orleans DPW site and one last clinic will be offered at the National Seashore (Little Creek) location in Eastham before the summer season begins. Registration for vaccination at any of these clinics is open to all 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 and Community Health Centers with a separate and distinct supply of vaccine. Interested individuals should pre-register for an appointment at a State or Regional Vaccine site, or participating pharmacy at the following link on-line: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>.

Locally, the Health Department, in coordination with Outer Cape Health Services and Dennis EMS, held a vaccination clinic for Town Employees yesterday. Many thanks to both OCHS and Dennis EMS for making that convenience available for Town Employees.

In addition, the Dennis Health Department, Dennis EMS and the Council on Aging in cooperation with OCHS will again be vaccinating a second round of homebound individuals on May 3, 2021.

The MDPH continues to watch three particular variants of concern, the B117 (UK), P1 (Brazil), and B1351 (S. Africa) variants. All three are significantly more transmissible than the virus which dominated the first wave of this pandemic. The B117 variant is now the predominant strain circulating in the US. Both-the B117 and P1 variants have been identified in Massachusetts and are circulating in Barnstable County.

Though the State's Travel Order was lifted on March 22, a Travel Advisory remains in place in MA. Consistent with CDC recommendations to delay travel, at least until fully vaccinated, the State is

recommending that all visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, with some exceptions, quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival.

With the summer season quickly approaching and the expectation of an extremely busy tourist season on the Cape, The Town, is seeking applications for the position of COVID ambassador. Under the direction of the Health Department, these individuals will provide education and guidance on all Massachusetts COVID safety standards, raising awareness of MA current best practices with visitors from other jurisdictions in an effort to increase everyone's travel experience in Dennis and hopefully, contribute to the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 locally.

Finally, the Governor announced some much awaited changes regarding the State's Face Mask Order and Re-opening Plans earlier today. Effective April 30, 2021, face coverings will no longer be required outdoors in public spaces when social distancing is possible. Face Coverings will still be required when indoors in public spaces. Though face coverings are still recommended indoors in private spaces, they will no longer be required. This new change does not apply where sector specific guidance requires it.

Effective May 10, the State will move to Phase IV, step 2 allowing the re-opening of some additional business including Amusement Parks, Outdoor Water Parks and theme parks at 50% capacity. In addition, capacity at large venues will increase from 12% to 50% and Road Races and other athletic events may now take place with safety plans provided either to the State if multiple municipalities are involved or to the Local Health Dept. if the scope of the event is more limited. Also, singing indoors will be allowed with specific safety requirements as detailed by sector specific guidance.

Effective May 29, gathering limits will be increased to 200 people for indoor events and 250 people for outdoor events. There will be no distinction between private and public venues. Bars may re-open on May 29, 2021 for beverage service without a requirement for food service. There will still be some seating limitations as per sector specific guidance. Street festivals and parades will again be permitted with capacity limitations as per sector specific guidance.

Effective August 1, 2021, all other businesses not otherwise noted, may re-open subject to any applicable sector specific guidance.

These plans are all dependent upon public health data and may be subject to change. I encourage everyone to continue to engage in the safety measures that were so effective in getting to the point the State has now reached, continue to wear a mask indoors in public places and outdoors, where social distancing is not possible, practice good hygiene and stay home and get tested if you are unwell.

Kristen Keller, Health Director

2. NOTICE TO RESIDENTS – IMPORTANT UPDATES ON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Due to the continued presence of the COVID-19 virus in the community and safeguards in place statewide, the Select Board after consulting with the Town Moderator, has voted to hold the May Annual Town Meeting -- again outdoors at the Wixon School Parking Lot on Saturday, May 8, 2021 under a tent. The meeting will begin promptly at 1:00PM and continue until our business is completed. As with the previous Special Town Meeting in October and the last Annual Town Meeting, a working

group consisting of the Moderator, Members of the Select Board, the Town Administrator, Town Clerk and various Town Employees have worked on arranging an environment that will permit Town Meeting to be held safely, while at the same time ensuring that Town Meeting Voters may participate meaningfully.

Last week the Select Board completed the warrant process by voting to approve and sign the final warrant and posting the Town Meeting Warrant. In addition, in consultation and with the approval of the Moderator, the Board voted to exercise the Municipal Relief legislation and voted to reduce the quorum required for the Annual Town Meeting.

More information including the Warrant, safety precautions, and a site map for the outdoor Town Meeting, can be found on the Dennis website here - [Town Meeting Information 5/8/21 1:00PM | Dennis MA](#)

3. ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION REMINDERS FROM THE TOWN CLERK -

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.

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.

4. CAPE COD COMMISSION SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

For Immediate Release (April 26, 2021) -- The Cape Cod Commission released the region's first-ever climate action plan for a 30-day public comment period.

The draft Cape Cod Climate Action Plan was informed by input gathered from a wide range of stakeholders in an extensive and collaborative region-wide engagement and outreach effort, a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory, an economic and fiscal impact analysis, and a legal and policy analysis.

The result is a comprehensive plan that sets actionable goals for Cape Cod, within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts framework. The Climate Action Plan is intended to foster collaborative, targeted action to address climate change in measurable ways. It details the need for planning and identifies strategies and actions the region can take to mitigate the Cape's contributions to climate change and adapt to its impacts.

The plan targets the region's highest emitting sectors, transportation and energy, as identified in the greenhouse gas emissions inventory, and include strategies that apply more broadly to support successful implementation of the plan. Strategies outlined will require action across all sectors and actors, including all levels of government, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and others.

Priority strategies for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions include reducing energy consumption and striving towards net zero energy building; promoting efficient land-use policies and development patterns; generating and increasing the use of safe, reliable, and clean energy; reducing vehicle miles traveled and supporting low and no carbon transportation options; accelerating the electrification of the transportation system; and reducing emissions by increasing and enhancing natural carbon storage.

Priority strategies for adapting to the impacts of climate change include addressing vulnerabilities in public infrastructure and the road network; identifying approaches for managing development in coastal resource areas; and addressing vulnerable buildings and structures through retrofits and relocation.

Measuring progress towards meeting the goals of the Climate Action Plan will require both long-term tracking of regional performance measures and shorter-term tracking of the implementation of specific strategies and actions. Updates to the regional greenhouse gas emission inventory, tracking of regional performance measures, and communication of regional progress will be key in ensuring effective implementation.

The Cape Cod Commission is seeking broad feedback from the public on the draft Climate Action Plan.

Comments can be submitted via email to climate@capecodcommission.org, in writing to Cape Cod Commission, P.O. Box 226, 3225 Main Street, Barnstable MA 02630, or by phone to 508-744-1271. Comments are due by May 24, 2021.

The draft version of the plan can be found here. https://www.capecodcommission.org/resource-library/file/?url=/dept/commission/team/Website_Resources/CAP/Draft_CAP_for_comment.pdf

5. COA BUILDING ADDITION PROJECT –

Very excited to announce the final inspections for the COA addition project are scheduled for today and Wednesday! Substantial completion will be met this week, inspections complete, and affidavits issued by the Architect. Also, town training starts today for electrical and fire alarm. Thank you to all the town-staff and consultants and our volunteers at the COA who have worked diligently on this project.

I look forward to upcoming discussions with the Board and Finance Committee on next steps for the existing building renovations. Tours, including a video tour are being coordinated, and we are planning to meet after Town Meeting in early June and well in advance of a Fall Town Meeting.

Have a great rest of the week everyone!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan
Town Administrator