

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

MAY 18, 2021

1. COVID-19 UPDATES FROM THE HEALTH DIRECTOR –

Massachusetts reported 281 new confirmed cases yesterday, 8 of which in Barnstable County. In his press conference yesterday, Governor Baker reported the incidence of new cases has dropped across the State by 89% since January 8. COVID hospitalizations are down 88% since January 1 and the State's positive test rate is down by 88% from its peak at 8.7% on January 1 to just 1% as of yesterday. The Town of Dennis has 9 cases at this time and as of May 13th was categorized as a green low risk community.

Vaccination efforts continue across the State and the County at this time. As of May 17, 2021, the State reported more than 4 million individuals have received at least one dose of vaccine. 68% of all eligible individuals in Barnstable County have received at least one dose of vaccine. At this time, any individual age 12 and older who lives, works, or studies in Massachusetts is eligible for vaccination. The only vaccine approved for individuals 12-17 at this time, is the Pfizer vaccine. Individuals age 18 and older can receive any one of the three vaccines. For more information on obtaining vaccination visit: www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine.

Partnering with Outer Cape Health Services, The Dennis Chamber of Commerce, along with the Dennis Fire and Dennis Police Department, will be hosting a drive thru vaccination clinic at Mid-Cape Home Centers this evening from 5:00 – 8:00 pm as well Tuesday May 25th. The vaccine administered will be the J&J vaccine and the clinic will be open to anyone age 18 and over. Regionally, Barnstable County continues to operate a vaccination clinic at Cape Cod Community College as well as a smaller, regional site in Falmouth. In addition to County and State resources, individuals may also pursue vaccination through Cape Cod Healthcare, local community health centers on Cape Cod and several local pharmacies. At this time, the supply of vaccine on Cape Cod is more than adequate to meet demand.

On Monday, May 17, Governor Baker announced he will end the State of Emergency effective June 15, 2021. The Administration will work with legislative and municipal partners during this period in order to manage an orderly transition from emergency measures adopted by executive order and special legislation during the period of the State of Emergency.

Noting the Commonwealth is on track to meet its goal of vaccinating 4.1 million residents by the first week of June, Governor Baker reported that all remaining industry COVID-19 restrictions and limitations will be lifted effective May 29. Also effective on the 29th the Commonwealth's face covering order will be rescinded. It will be replaced with a new face covering advisory from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, which will be consistent with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's updated guidance. Face coverings will still be mandatory for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), in healthcare facilities and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings. Face coverings will also remain required indoors for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers. In addition, non-vaccinated individuals are advised to continue wearing face coverings and to continue distancing in

most settings. The advisory will also recommend fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a face covering or social distance indoors or outdoors except for in certain situations.

Kristen Keller, Health Director

2. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON REOPENING –

State lifts COVID-19 restrictions, eases mask-wearing rules on May 29

Saying that the state will likely meet a key vaccination goal by early June, Gov. Charlie Baker announced today that the state will lift most remaining COVID-19 restrictions — including allowing for full capacity for industries and removing gathering limits — and adopt new federal guidance on mask wearing on May 29.

In a press conference Monday morning, Baker said that the state is now “safer, smarter and better equipped in this fight,” and is in a position to accelerate its full reopening and to rescind its current mask order. He said that the state expects to meet its goal of vaccinating 4.1 million people by the first week of June.

“Massachusetts is getting vaccinated faster than virtually any other state in the country,” Baker said. “We’ve gotten to this point because we followed the science, and the people of Massachusetts did the hard work, and made the sacrifices. We are now prepared and protected, and we can move forward together.”

The Baker administration had previously identified Aug. 1 as the target date for the final stage of reopening, but with the caveat that it would continue to review public health data and adjust plans accordingly.

State of emergency

Baker said he will end the current state of emergency on June 15, which gives cities and towns the ability to hold virtual meetings and hearings, and expedite permitting and allowances for outdoor dining and downtown businesses, among other things.

Because cities and towns need time to plan and implement municipal operations and changes, MMA is working with the administration and legislature to enact legislation to extend flexibilities granted to municipalities during the state of emergency such as the ability to hold remote town meetings and expedite changes in alcohol licensing.

The administration has promised to work with legislative and municipal officials during this period to manage the transition from emergency measures adopted by executive order and special legislation during the period of the state of emergency.

Industries

All COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries on May 29, except for the remaining face-covering requirements for public and private transportation systems and facilities housing vulnerable populations. Gathering limits will be rescinded.

All industries will still be encouraged to follow CDC guidance for cleaning and hygiene protocols.

Face coverings

On May 29, the state will rescind its current mask order, meaning fully vaccinated individuals will no longer need to wear face coverings or physically distance themselves, indoors or outdoors, except in certain situations. The Department of Public Health will issue a new face-covering advisory consistent with the updated guidance that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced on May 13.

People must still wear face coverings on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), in healthcare facilities and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings and health and rehabilitative day services.

The state will advise non-vaccinated individuals to keep wearing face masks and to continue distancing in most settings.

Schools and youth programs

During Monday's press conference, Baker, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and other state officials made several COVID announcements affecting children and schools.

As of tomorrow, May 18, participants ages 18 and younger in youth and amateur sports will no longer need to wear face coverings. On May 29, the state will lift all youth and amateur sports restrictions.

As of May 18, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Early Education and Care will no longer require masks for outdoor activities like recess and will allow for the sharing of objects in classrooms, in both K-12 and childcare settings. This guidance will remain in effect beyond May 29.

Face coverings will remain required indoors, however, for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers.

On May 29, the administration will also release updated guidance for summer camps, in which masks will no longer be required for outdoor activities.

3. DENNIS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING COMPLETED –

2021 Annual Town Meeting was held on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 1p.m. outdoors at the Wixon School under a tent.

Of the 37 articles presented on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, 29 were acted upon and approved. Articles 1 and 2 no action was taken as there were no written or oral reports. Article 23, 32, 33 were not supported. Three of the five petitioned articles, were indefinitely postponed. A complete listing of the articles and actions taken at the 2021 Annual Town Meeting, will be posted on our website shortly here – <https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/town-clerk/pages/town-meeting-results>

I want to thank the staff for coordinating all aspects of the meeting allowing for this important exercise of democracy to take place in a manner that safeguarded the community's health and to all participants for coming out and exercising their right to vote at this unprecedented event. Thank you also to the CERT team and the DYRSD Facility and school employees that assisted as well.

4. DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES PORT PROFILES ONLINE –

The state has released, the statistically-packed, insightful Port Profile document which has gone live! Click on this [link](#) to check out “Port by Port: Profiles and Analysis of the Massachusetts Commercial Fishery.”

The “Port by Port: Profiles and Analysis of the Massachusetts Commercial Fishery” report, including individual port profiles, was developed through a collaboration between the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, the University of Massachusetts Boston’s Urban Harbors Institute, and the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Alliance. Using data from commercial fishing permits, the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program’s (ACCSP) Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) Dealer Database, and harbormaster and fishermen surveys, the port profiles provide an overview of the commercial fishing activity and infrastructure within each municipality. The port profiles are part of a larger report which describes the status of the Commonwealth’s commercial fishing and port infrastructure, as well as how profile data can inform policy, programming, funding, infrastructure improvements, and other important industry-related decisions.

You can access the Report or Port profiles including Sesuit Harbor in Dennis here:

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/port-profile-project>

5. FIRE STATION 2 BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATES -

Chief Brown has shared the following status updates from the Building Committee for the Fire Station 2 Building Project located at 350 Paddocks Path, East Dennis.

- Most of the outside site work has been completed including the building layout on the property.
- Additional soil testing holes of the site are scheduled for Friday of this week
- Floor plans for the interior are 98% done, which include a basement for additional storage and a community/ training room.
- The Fire Department Station 2 Committee is working with the architect for what they call outside “elevations”. This is what the building will look like when complete. Should have them this week.
- Based on the outside design a better understanding of building cost can be calculated.
- The next meeting of the Fire Station 2 Building Committee is May 26, 2021 at 10AM.

Enjoy the great weather, and have a great rest of the week everyone!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan
Town Administrator