

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT TO THE SELECT BOARD – AUGUST 11, 2020

1. COVID-19 UPDATES –

We urge everyone to follow social distancing guidelines, wear a face covering when social distances cannot be maintained, wash hands frequently, use hand sanitizer, and practice proper respiratory etiquette.

State DPH COVID-19 Numbers

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health reports the number of positive cases and deaths daily on the state's [COVID-19 dashboard here](#).

Town-specific case numbers are published by the state every Wednesday on the [COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report](#).

Currently there are 2 active Dennis cases as of 8/11/20.

2. STATE COVID-19 UPDATES - AUGUST 1ST - NEW STATE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE – Rhode Island No Longer Considered a Lower-Risk State

Beginning Friday, August 7, travelers from Rhode Island to Massachusetts will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival to MA or produce a negative COVID test. This includes residents of MA who are returning from time spent in Rhode Island. Travelers arriving in Massachusetts from any place other than New York, New Jersey, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut or Hawaii must quarantine for 14 days or have a negative COVID test no more than 72 hours before arriving in MA. This order pertains to residents returning home to Massachusetts as well as out-of-state residents. Read the [order](#). Travelers must also fill out a [Massachusetts Travel Form](#).

Where to Get a COVID-19 Test

Need a COVID test but not sure where to get one? Check out the list of testing locations here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ma-covid-19-testing-sites/download>

3. BEACH HEALTH & SAFETY REMINDERS

The Town has recently received complaints regarding lack of distancing at some of our Town beaches. The beautiful summer weather and the lack of other recreational activities due to COVID-19 restrictions has greater numbers at beaches everywhere, including in the Town of Dennis.

Please remember that this is not a normal summer. Everyone is coping with the pressures of the pandemic in different ways; some are being hyper-vigilant, while others are trying to maintain as normal a summer routine as possible. Increasingly stuck between these groups are the Town's frontline employees. These permanent and seasonal staff members are doing their best to enforce rules that are in place to keep the community safe during a public health emergency. Please treat them and all members of our community with kindness and respect.

Reminders - we ask everyone to adhere to guidelines that have been set:

The Commonwealth has set strict Beach guidelines requiring groups to maintain a 12' minimum distance between other groups sitting on beach. Due to these social distancing requirements the Town has identified some areas of concern and proactively has temporarily set limits on parking at some routinely over crowded beaches. The Beach supervisor(s) will monitor the social distancing situation with close coordination with the Town Health Agent(s) and may either reduce and/or increase parking as deemed fit.

The following Dennis beaches will have reduced parking capacity:

Mayflower Beach - upper parking lot will be temporarily closed.

Corporation Beach - ballfield overflow parking will be temporarily closed.

West Dennis Beach – westerly end of parking lot temporarily closed.

South Village Beach – nonresident lot temporarily closed.

Glendon Beach - temporarily close portion of parking area.

All beach locations will be closely monitored and if required parking may be further limited to promote State social distancing protocols.

The Department of Public Health Orders and Guidelines requires all beach visitors to comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible. The order requires any person over the age of 2, whether indoors or outdoors, to wear a face covering or mask when they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance between themselves and others, unless they have a medical condition preventing them from doing so (see further guidance here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>). Masks are not required to be worn while swimming.

The following are safety standards for the management and use of coastal and inland beaches in the Commonwealth for Phase II of the Commonwealth's Reopening:

Beach visitors are required to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet or more at all times and visitors should maintain at least 12 ft minimum distance between towelings/beach blanket areas. Toweling/Beach blanket groups are limited to groups no larger than 10.

No contact ball games such as catch, Kadima, Kan Jam and bocce can be allowed provided that social distancing can be maintained, and group size guidelines followed. No games, scrimmages, or tournaments.

Beach visitors shall abide by social distancing standards for bathroom lines and follow any established visual guidelines for maintaining a 6' distance in all restroom facilities.

The full guidance document can be viewed at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-energy-and-environmental-affairs-eea-covid-19-guidance-documents>

The current Beach Regulations remain effective, including:

No alcoholic beverages will be permitted on the beaches or in the parking areas at ANYTIME.

No smoking will be permitted on the beaches or in the beach parking areas at ANYTIME.

No littering will be permitted on the beaches or in the parking areas at ANYTIME. No glass containers or bottles shall be allowed on the beach or in the parking areas at ANYTIME.

No animals or pets will be permitted on the beaches, in the parking areas, or in unattended vehicles in the parking areas at ANYTIME from the Friday of Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

The Health and Police Departments have increased their presence and will provide assistance, in anticipation of an increase in beach attendance during summer season, for monitoring social distancing, the wearing of face coverings when appropriate and adherence to limitations on large gatherings (< 10 people).

Further action may need to be taken if the public health is jeopardized by overcrowding or non-compliance with all guidance.

These plans have been endorsed by the Select Board and are subject to change upon further evaluation that adherence is not being met.

4. DENNIS REOPENING WEBSITE OFFERS LOCAL REOPENING INFORMATION

The Town will continue to post reopening-related updates to a dedicated website at <https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/home/news/reopening-dennis> Check there for updates as new information is posted as guidance becomes available.

5. SAVE THE DATE - SELECT BOARD SETS SPECIAL TOWN MEETING DATE, LOCATION

The Select Board voted today to set the Fall Special Town Meeting to Saturday, October 3, 2020 at 10AM. Like Spring Town Meeting, Special Town Meeting will be held outdoors in the Wixon School parking lot to allow for COVID-19 safety measures. More information will be forthcoming.

6. DENNIS AWARDED WITH A SHARED STREETS AND SPACES GRANT

I am pleased to report that Dennis has received a Shared Streets and Spaces Grant. As you may recall the Select board recently endorsed this grant application submittal.

Thank you for submitting a project application to the MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Program. Your project application has been reviewed, and we are pleased to notify you that the Dennis pedestrian walkway improvements project has been approved for funding. We received many applications and had a competitive applicant pool from which to select, and your application stood out. The Dennis pedestrian walkway improvements project will be funded at \$25,000.00 under Chapter 90 Contract Number/ MMARS #50779. Ongoing maintenance, operational, and enforcement costs associated with a project are not eligible uses of this funding. The Shared Streets and Spaces Program is intended to support projects that promote public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce by quickly providing new or repurposed space for socially-distanced walking, bicycling, dining, retail, and bus travel. We are excited to work with you and the full Dennis team as this project advances.

7. DENNIS FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN AWARDED A FEMA AFG GRANT

We have been contacted by Senator Warren's Office and Congressmen Keating's Office, that the Dennis Fire Department has been awarded a FEMA AFG Grant, in the amount of \$ 102,921.

The funding will be utilized to upgrade and replace our vehicle/structure and trench extrication stabilization equipment. This program will standardize our current extrication equipment by replacing our 18 year old system of spreaders, cutters, ram, chain, cribbing and saws with a newer system capable of operating on powerful battery power. Additionally, the program will replace our stabilization struts with the intent of making them compatible with systems operated by our mutual aid partners and our regional fire dept response team, which we cannot do at the moment.

This program conversion also moves us to meet the requirements as set forth in NFPA 1670-Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents.

The Fire Chief has noted, that this project was to be included in our Towns upcoming 5 year Capital plan for a recommendation to be financed. We now can exclude that planned request due to this FEMA grant funding.

8. VETERANS HOME –

Great news to share, from our project partner the Cape and Islands Veteran’s Outreach Center, aka CIVOC is proud to announce that the Cape Cod Five Cents Saving Bank Foundation has contributed \$25,000 to support the Veterans Home Project in Dennis.

Additionally, last Thursday during their meeting, the CPC voted to transfer the \$200,000 CPC award from the Planning Department to the Cape and Islands Veterans Outreach Center AND voted to release the funds to them.

Thank you to all for their work on this important project.

Have a great rest of the week, please do take care!!

Elizabeth C. Sullivan
Town Administrator
Town of Dennis