

## **Weekly Video Update, December 27, 2021**

### **Andrew Goodrich, Select Board Member**

Mr. Goodrich stated this is the last update of the year and thanked Seth Pfeiffer from Scituate Community Television for all his help in putting together the updates over the past year.

### **Update from Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator**

Mr. Boudreau hopes everyone had a wonderful Christmas and wished all a Happy New Year.

1. Water construction has ceased for the season. Testing and training of employees on the green sand filter on well 17A is on-going. The Pilot study at the water treatment plant is done for now. They will also be back this winter to pilot treatment of the water when it is cold.
2. The total number of Covid cases for this past week, through Friday, not including the weekend was 41, hard to compare with the 67 of the previous week missing two days of data. We have a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 6.48%, up from the 4.93% of last week. Plymouth County is at 8.81%, more than the 8.19% of last week. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 8.32% jumping up from last week at 5.77%. These numbers do not include home tests not reported to the state. These percentage increases are consistent with the increase in case numbers that we are seeing. Numbers are increasing across the board as colder weather arrives and people spend more time indoors. Numbers are expected to continue rising after the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

We did not get test kits from the state as Scituate did not meet the criteria for the distribution. Less than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the states' communities got test kits. The only communities near us to receive kits were Quincy, Rockland, Brockton and Avon.

Omicron variant is here. Early data is that Omicron is significantly more transmissible than the Delta Variant, but that vaccinated individuals with the Omicron variant experience mild to no symptoms and are not hospitalized. Moderna announced that the Moderna booster is effective against the Omicron variant. At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense than not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not yet gotten vaccinated and can receive the vaccine, we urge you to do so. Vaccinations and booster are widely available. Go to [mass.gov](https://mass.gov) for details. Individuals 18 and over are eligible for a Moderna Booster and 16 and over for a Pfizer booster.

Governor Baker issued new guidance in response to the Omicron variant and rising COVID numbers. In response to the spread of the Delta variant and the emerging Omicron variant, the Department of Public Health now advises that all residents, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask or face covering when indoors (and not in your own home). The DPH particularly urges this recommendation if you have a

weakened immune system, or if you are at increased risk for severe disease because of your age or an underlying medical condition, or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated.

In addition, as of 12/27/21 all hospitals in the Commonwealth have been directed to postpone or cancel all nonessential elective procedures likely to result in inpatient admission in order to maintain and increase inpatient capacity.

3. This week the transfer station will be open normal hours on Friday, 12/31 and will be closed on Saturday, 1/1/22. The transfer station will be open normal hours on Sunday, 1/2/22.
4. Renovations/expansion to the Widow's Walk clubhouse continue and the floors are anticipated to go down this week. The walk- in freezer is arriving this week. The RFP for operation of the clubhouse and food service is out and the opening date is January 18<sup>th</sup>.
5. Widows Walk is now open to residents of Scituate for walking, sledding and other winter activities. We ask that you please have your dogs on a leash at all times, avoid walking over any greens or sand traps and most importantly, pick up after your dog. Barrels are available for placement of the dog waste.