

## **Weekly Video Update, January 24, 2022**

### **Maura Curran, Select Board Member**

This week there are several important meetings:

Charter Review Public Meeting, January 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM via Zoom and Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 1:00 PM

The Planning Board is holding a public meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:30 PM to discuss zoning changes, including changes in marijuana by laws.

### **Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator**

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week (not including yesterday) according to our MAVEN data was 94, down from 110 of last week and from 104 of two weeks ago. This number does not include home testing that was reported to the Board of Health or School department by parents or individuals. Only tests done by a doctor's office or registered testing site make it into MAVEN. The total number of cases reported to the BOH, including home tests over the last two weeks was 466, down from 494 last week. We have a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 21.05%, up slightly from 20.66% of last week. Plymouth County is at 24.06%, down very slightly from 24.13% of last week. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 13.70% down from the previous week of 19.90% and 23.02% of two weeks ago. So, state wide the numbers are trending down while locally it looks like our case rates have leveled off. Hopefully we will start to see those drop in the weeks ahead. Again, these numbers do not include home tests not reported to the state. We have consistently stated that the number to pay attention to is not the case totals, but the percent positive. One positive note is that the data from the MWRA measuring Covid in waste water has dropped dramatically since the early January, down 55% in the waste from south of Boston and 65% for waste from the north. This measure has been seen as a predictor as to where the virus is going over the next several weeks, so hopefully is a sign that the Omicron surge is peaking and will start to decline.

At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense than not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not yet been 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 11 and over for a Pfizer booster. You are eligible for a booster 5 months after getting your second Pfizer and 6 months after your Moderna shot and 2 months after a J&J shot.

Governor Baker reissued new guidance and now advises that all residents, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask or face covering when indoors (and not in your own home). With the surging number of cases, it is recommended that you wear a mask when you are indoors in a public space for your protection and the protection of others.

2. Widow's Walk clubhouse renovation continues with the flooring going in as we speak. Last week the RFP for operator of the clubhouse was due and, unfortunately, we didn't receive any bids. We sat down with Golf Director, Ian Kelley, and we reached out to those who expressed interest for comments. After a few changes, we have re-issued the RFP which is now due March 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. We are open to sharing our beautiful course with the local 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.
4. After 33 years of Service, Deputy Fire Chief Al Elliott has announced his intention to retire as of February 22, 2022. I am sure that we will be having Al in to a Board meeting, but I would like to thank him for all his hard work and dedication to the Scituate Fire Department and the residents of Scituate. He will be missed.

### **Bill Burkhead, Superintendent of Schools**

Mr. Burkhead supplied the latest Covid update across the school district. There was a total of 75 Covid cases across the district, down over 50% from the previous week which had 187 cases. District breakdown is as follows:

District staff	0
Cushing	13
Gates	20
Hatherly	8
Jenkins	6
Scituate High School	11
Wampanoag	17

School Committee Meeting is tonight (January 24) and will highlight:

- Student Learning Celebration, featuring Jenkins Elementary
- Report from SHS students
- Votes on program of studies, substitute pay increase, and new Assistant Athletic Director job description
- Superintendent update on new Covid testing recommendations
- Asst. Superintendent report on curriculum updates
- Mass School Building Authority update on the new school project, Dr. Dutch
- Tiered focused monitoring program, Special Ed Director Michelle Boebert

On February 10, Superintendent Burkhead will host his second "Seaside chat" which is an open forum to discuss any areas of concern, or celebration within the school district. This will be held at the Senior Center on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM.

At the next School Committee Meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Burkhead will share a “State of the Schools Update”.

Information will be sent out for a Budget workshop which is scheduled for Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 9 am via zoom.

The School budget hearing is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM via zoom.