

Weekly COVID Update, January 31, 2022

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week (not including yesterday) according to our MAVEN data was 48, down from 94 of last week. However, this includes 0 cases reported from Saturday during the storm. Our number would still be below the 94 from last week, but would be a little higher than 48 if testing sites were open. This number does not include home testing that was reported to the Board of Health or School department by parents or individuals. The total number of cases reported to the BOH, including home tests over the last two weeks was 278, down from 466 reported last week. We have a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 16.50, down slightly from 21.05% of last week. Plymouth County is at 19.82%, down from 24.06% of last week. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 8.92 % down from the previous week of 13.70% and 19.90% of two week ago. The numbers are trending down across the board.

At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense then not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not been vaccinated, we urge you to do so. Vaccinations and booster are widely available. Go to mass.gov for details.

2. Renovations to the Widow's Walk clubhouse continue. We put the bid back out for the food and beverage RFP and we have some people interested. We hope to award the bid and get someone in there for the spring season.
3. The Charter Review Committee postponed their meeting and will be holding a public forum on suggested changes to the Town Charter this Saturday, 2/5 at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held view zoom and the link can be found on the town web site. Copies of the changes are available on the town web site <https://www.scituatema.gov/charter-review-committee>
4. Mr. Boudreau thanked all the crews at DPW, Police and Fire Departments for an outstanding job under treacherous conditions this weekend. DPW crews worked hard to keep out with the blowing and drifting snow while working in virtually white out conditions, then returned yesterday to get the roads and parking lots clean and safe for the schools today. Police and Fire staged up for the storm while maintaining regular public safety response. Luckily, we did not have any storm related injuries. Mr. Boudreau thanked National Grid for restoring power so quickly.
5. People are tired of shoveling and cleaning up after the weekend, but with warmer temperatures forecast for later this week we will have melting of snow during the day. This can cause icy conditions at night when that water freezes so use caution when driving. In addition, we are looking at rain possibly on Wednesday and Thursday, so please shovel out any storm drains near you. We would also ask that if there is a fire hydrant near you that you and your neighbors make sure the hydrant is shoveled out and accessible. Seconds count in a response and we (and you) don't want Firefighters to lose time in getting water onto a fire because they had to shovel out the hydrant.

6. Finally, on a personal note, Mr. Boudreau thanked the Scituate and Norwell Fire Departments who responded to what luckily turned out to be a minor fire at his home on Saturday evening. They did a fantastic job of locating the source of the fire and getting it knocked down and put out quickly without major damage. Thank you to them and believe me, I will be making sure my hydrant is free and clear when I get home today.

Andrew Goodrich, Select Board Clerk

Select Board meets via zoom tomorrow (February 1st) at 6:30 PM and will be discussing the DPW budget. On Thursday, there are two meetings: Advisory Committee and Scituate Harbor Advisory Re-development (SHARC) meetings will be held at 7 PM, via zoom. Links are on the <https://www.scituatema.gov>.

Bill Burkhead, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Burkhead gave a huge shout out to town and public safety officials in response to the storm. He thanked Mr. Boudreau, Police and Fire Chiefs, and the custodian and transportation team. Great team work by all. The kids are safe in school which is where they should be.

Covid Update:

The numbers are trending down. Last week we had 40 cases, down from 75, and week prior was 187 cases. We are cautiously optimistic and monitoring vaccination rates within the schools. As schools reach 80% vaccination, we are able to move to mask optional. Scituate High is at 80% and the Middle School is close to 77% and elementary schools are trending that way as well. There will be correspondence sent out this week. He thanked everyone in town, and families, for vaccinating. Breakdown in the district is as follows:

District staff	1
Cushing	6
Gates	14
Hatherly	2
Jenkins	4
Wampatuck	4
High School	9

The second “Seaside Chat” is February 10th at 1:30 and 6:30 PM at the Senior Center.

The next School Committee meeting is February 7, 2022 and we will talk about the first half of the school year. The meeting will be taped and available on the website.

It’s budget season and there will be a community workshop on Saturday, February 12th at 9:00 AM and the official School Committee budget hearing will be on February 17th at 6:00 PM. This will be a stand alone meeting strictly to discuss the budget.