

Covid Narrative January 25, 2021

Select person Maura Curran said the state website, mass.gov/covid, has a plethora of information about Covid including charts showing infection rates at the town and county level.

She noted there have been 826 cases in Scituate through Jan. 16, an infection rate of less than 1 percent. Curran said she is feeling optimistic and appreciates all the efforts by residents to help stop the spread of the virus.

In response to citizen inquiries about the flag not flying at the Public Safety Building, Curran said the pulley on the flagpole broke. Once the pulley comes back, the American flag will continue to wave.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said he has been assured by state Senator Patrick O'Connor that, once paperwork clears the necessary hurdles, the South Shore will have sites where the vaccine can be administered. Currently, the closest mass vaccination site is Gillette Stadium in Foxboro.

Boudreau said the town has not been told if it will be administering the vaccine locally. But Scituate is ready to get those shots in people's arms if called to do so.

Phase 2 of the state vaccination plan is starting; when it's done, everyone over 65 will have had the opportunity to receive their first shot. Check mass.gov/covid for more information.

Boudreau said the town had 57 new Covid cases over the past week; that is down from 97 the previous week and over 120 the week before. The town's positivity rate is 8.33 percent over the last 14 days. If Scituate residents remain vigilant, the numbers should continue to come down.

Boudreau said Governor Baker, while keeping the 25 percent capacity requirement in place, has allowed restaurants and gyms to stay open later.

Town Hall continues this week to be open to the public by appointment. The library is open for pickups and drop-offs only.

Burning permits can be obtained online through a link on the scituatema.gov homepage.

The Cole Parkway marina and Cedar Point projects are ongoing. Cedar Point is very dangerous for walkers, bikers and sightseers, so avoid the area if you can.

Boudreau said the town has put out to bid replacing the 2-inch water mains around town that should solve the chronic brown water issues. Once completed, along with new hydrants and flushing gates, the water department will be able to flush the pipes, something that has not been possible because the existing water lines are so small.

The Ellis Estate legislation has passed which protects the estate in perpetuity. Next up is getting a conservation restriction on the property.

Supt. of Schools Bill Burkhead said the kids were physically in school today (Jan. 25). He welcomed everyone back.

He explained the process the school department uses to determine moving from one learning model to another.

The school department leadership team is in almost daily communication with state and local officials to assess Covid numbers and determine the safest way for students to return to school.

The metric used also includes looking at surrounding towns; what is happening in Marshfield, Norwell and Cohasset.

Transmission in school has been virtually zero.