

Covid Narrative May 3, 2021

Select Board Member Karen Connolly said more than 500 turned out for Ship Shape Day on Saturday (May 1). She said the DPW will pick up the trash bags left by the side of the road this week (call the DPW at the end of the week for bags that are not collected). She thanked Scituate citizens and the Beautification Commission for making Ship Shape Day a success.

Connolly noted that people are dumping trash at the Ellis Estate that is operated by the Scituate Arts Association which rents the building from the town. She said the arts association works very hard to keep the property up. The dumped trash is causing problems with the driveway.

Connolly also asked that citizens do not leave their trash beside a full trash barrel, but bring it home. The DPW empties the barrels on a regular basis and does not want to pick up trash from the ground as well.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said trash left beside the barrels blows around. He urged citizens to help keep Scituate clean.

Boudreau said that state facemask protocols have been relaxed. Check mass.gov/covid for the latest guidance. Simply put, facemasks are still required at public places inside. Outside, facemasks are not required if it is possible to be socially distant. [Mass.gov/covid](https://mass.gov/covid) also has the latest capacity guidelines for restaurants and public places. On August 1, the state could lift all restrictions.

Boudreau said the town is still trending in the right direction with 19 new Covid cases over the past week; that is down from 20 the previous week. The town's positivity rate is 2.59 percent over the last 14 days.

Anyone age 16 and older is now eligible to be vaccinated for Covid. The only caveat is that those ages 16 and 17, must get the Pfizer vaccine. The Moderna vaccine has not been approved for those under 18.

To register at a mass vaccination site, visit: vaccinesignup.mass.gov.

Check scituatema.gov for the unpaid internship program that is open to all ages. The town has several projects that could use an intern.

The Peggotty Beach parking lot is closed while it is repaved and repaired. It will be open by Memorial Day.

The Cole Parkway Marina and Cedar Point projects are wrapping up. Rebecca and Lighthouse roads will be patched. Paving will take place in the fall after the road settles.

The water main project will begin with Bailey's Causeway. The new mains will greatly improve water quality.

Superintendent of Schools William Burkhead said there were six new Covid cases over the past week for a total of 217 this school year. These cases were tracked back to other members of the students' families.

He gave a shoutout to the school department principals as Saturday was National Principals Day. This week is National Teacher Appreciation Week. He suggested the community reach out to an administrator and/or teacher and simply say "thank you."

The May 10 School Committee meeting will discuss social-emotional learning and appoint the new assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction, and professional development. For agenda, visit: scituate.k12.ma.us.