

## **Weekly Video Update, April 4, 2022**

### **Karen Connolly, Select Board Chair**

There is Select Board meeting tomorrow night at 6:30 PM, in person at Town Hall. Thursday, April 7th there will be a Moderator Meeting at Town Hall at 2:00 PM which will be televised live. Annual Town Meeting is Monday, April 11th at 7 PM at Scituate High School.

There will be a meeting on Thursday at 6:00 PM via Zoom on the Water Treatment Plant Design with the engineers. A link will be on the website main calendar.

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

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week (not including yesterday) according to our MAVEN data was 17, up from 10 of last week. The total number of cases reported to the BOH, including home tests over the last two weeks was 21, also up slightly from the 18 reported last week. We had a positivity rating over the last 14 days of 2.11% up from 1.71% of last week. Plymouth County is at 2.02%, up from last week's 1.71%. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 2.47% up from the previous week of 2.08%. Statewide there are 33 individuals in ICU with 12 being intubated. We will continue to monitor numbers, but the hope is that even as the number of people with COVID rises, the hospitalization numbers will remain manageable due to the high vaccination in Massachusetts.

We are not done with COVID yet. Although it is only one week, the numbers are trending up. There is a new Omicron variant, BA-2 that is now the dominant strain in the US. 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. The FDA has now approved a second booster shot as further protection against Covid. Individuals 50 years of age and older may get a second booster of Pfizer or Moderna 4 months after their first booster. A second booster of Pfizer vaccine may be administered to individuals over 12 with certain kinds of immunocompromise. A second Moderna booster may be administered to individuals 18 and over with the same conditions. Data shows that there is some waning of protection over time against serious outcomes from COVID 19 for older and immunocompromised individuals.

2. Widows Walk golf course is OPEN for the season. The new pro-shop is ready for business and we kicked off the golf season on Friday. We are working on finishing the last punch items on the widows walk clubhouse project. The Hibernian Restaurant on Front Street in the Harbor has been awarded the concession for the new facility at the club. Furniture for the new club house has arrived and is being assembled. We are looking forward to the start of concessions as soon as possible.
3. The Scituate Water Division is working to complete necessary maintenance work on the Granular Activated Carbon Filter at the Old Oaken Bucket Water Treatment Plant. The

Carbon Filtration is a critical component of the drinking water purification process at our treatment plant. To perform this work, the Water Treatment Plant will be offline during the duration of the project. Water from Well 17A with the new Greensand Filter Plant will be utilized to help meet the daily water demands while the Treatment Plant is offline. The carbon has been removed, reactivated and is being placed back in the plant. The plant will then have to run for several days before going back on line. We are on schedule to complete the repairs on time. This maintenance is scheduled to last from March 23<sup>rd</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup>. During this time frame the Scituate Water Division is issuing a Full Ban on all outdoor water use. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Mr. Boudreau thanked the treatment plant operators and the Fire Dept. handling the fire at Go Green without using too much water. We also had a water main break the same day. Great job by all handling that.

He stated there will be a meeting on Thursday to discuss the water treatment plant and this past week underlined how important it is to get a new plant.

4. If you have been down the Driftway or to the transfer station lately you will have seen the electronic sign reminding people that annual transfer station stickers expired 3/31. Stickers can be purchased on line or in person at the Treasurer's office here at the Town Hall. Stickers are \$90 for consumers and \$55 for people over 70. The scale has been repaired for those depositing of waste that require weighing.
5. Town Meeting is next week, April 11, 2022 at the High School and starts at 7:00 pm. The Advisory Booklet and Town Meeting Warrant are available on the Town web site.

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

Covid Update: 13 cases for the week up from 11 of the previous week. Breakdown is as follows:

|                |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
| District Staff | 0 |   |
| Cushing        |   | 8 |
| Gates          | 2 |   |
| Hatherly       | 1 |   |
| Jenkins        |   | 0 |
| SHS            | 2 |   |
| Wampanoag      | 0 |   |

The next school meeting will be at Annual Town Meeting, April 11<sup>th</sup>, and the following meeting will be April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Burkhead said they've been working on a district crisis response team to articulate an approach in the event of an emergency crisis within the district. The team consists of central office leadership administrators, clinical support, nursing support, and town emergency response personnel.

The school district submitted a student opportunity act amendment which reinforces our commitment to inclusive co-teaching for our students with disabilities and developing an effective family/school partnership. We had an increase of \$83,761 in FY 22 and next year will be \$16,154.