

## Covid Update, August 15, 2022

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week according to our MAVEN data was 17, up from 9 last week. We had a positivity rating over the last 14 days of 8.94% down from 10.41%. Plymouth County is at 8.95%, up from last week of 8.68 %. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 8.05%, up very slightly from last week's 7.97%. Statewide there are 57 individuals in ICU, the same as last week. 12 patients are intubated down from 15. So local numbers have increased while state wide the numbers are down for the second straight week.

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 then not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not yet gotten 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.

2. Water update. Reservoir is at -40.25", last week we were at -39". Tack factory Pond is still at -10.75", down from 8". Average daily demand was at 1.376 MGD down from 1.592 MGD last week. That is down 216k PD or 1.5 million gallons for the week. Nice job Scituate, let's keep it up. We are currently rated as having a critical drought by the Commonwealth. As the drought worsens, the water tables supplying our wells continue to drop, lowering the output from those wells, making us more dependent on the water treatment plant. The more we have to use the plant, the more Manganese we are putting into the system and the more discolored water we get. Manganese measured at the WTP is still high and is causing discolored water to go through the plant and into the system. As the temperatures rise, so will the Manganese levels in the water. We are working with our consultants and DEP to try and come up with a short term fix while we wait for the construction of a new water treatment plant.

If you have brown water, please call the water department or email [brownwater@scituatema.gov](mailto:brownwater@scituatema.gov) The Town also has water available for residents at the WTP during regular business hours.

Rainfall over the last 7 days was .4" measured at the Plant.

With the worsening of drought conditions and the strains being placed on our wells, we have implemented a Tier 4 water ban. This is a total ban on all non-essential outside water use. This includes vehicles and boats at marinas. The water department will be fining violators. We have fined over 75 violators since putting the ban in place. Fines can be as high as \$300 a day. Details of the ban can be found on the town web site. We all need to do our best to conserve water during these drought conditions.

Celco will working on Ridge Hill road.

3. The water resources committee will be holding their annual Water Information Session this Wednesday, August 17 at 7 pm. This is a virtual meeting and the link is available on the town web site.

4. The paving contractor for the Town is continuing work on Old Oaken Bucket, Maple Street and Woodland. Final paving is scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, weather dependent. A warning to drivers on OOB-when finished the SPD will be doing intense traffic enforcement to keep speeds down. Forewarned is forearmed. They also be paving on Hatherly in the vicinity of Toll Brothers this week. This is an overlay project. We are also working on pulverizing the roads around the Utility Road neighborhood behind town hall in preparation for paving.
5. The DPW wants to remind people that they are not to be putting their household trash in town trash barrels. This is a particular problem on Front Street and Cole Parkway. The crews empty the barrels daily, generally in the morning and then we get complaints that they have not been emptied only to find that they have been filled with someone's household trash. We check to see if we can identify the culprit(s) and give them a warning, after which they will get a ticket. Household trash needs to be brought to the transfer station or the homeowner needs to make arrangements to dispose of it.
6. The Town will be hosting a Home Elevation seminar in conjunction with MEMA on August 30 from 5:00 – 6:00 in the Scituate Library Community Room. This free seminar will answer questions about home elevation projects, why a home owner should consider it, how much it might cost and opportunities for funding among other topics. Interested residents should email our Coastal Resource Officer Corey Miles at [cmiles@scituatema.gov](mailto:cmiles@scituatema.gov) so we can get a handle on how many people might attend.
7. \$367,000 Seaport Economic Council grant for the permitting and design of dredging in Scituate Harbor. 4 areas- Lobster association area, Maritime center, cole parkway and town pier. Once the design and permitting are complete, we will apply to the Seaport for dredging funds. The channel is the responsibility of the Army Corps of engineers.
8. Although it may seem early with temperatures forecast to reach close to 100 on Thursday, the Town is looking for plow drivers for the winter and for positions in the DPW, Interested parties should contact the DPW.