

Weekly Update, December 13, 2021

Superintendent of Schools, Bill Burkhead

Mr. Burkhead provided his Health and Wellness Update: Schools had 34 total cases, up 6 from last week. Breakdown is as follows:

11 Cushing
6 Gates
3 Hatherly
7 Scituate High School
5 Wampanoag
0 Jenkins

Last week the district took part in the Community- based Justice Program (CJP) in partnership with the local District Attorney's office to ensure our high school team is represented. The purpose is to coordinate efforts of the criminal justice system and address juvenile justice. The group consists of prosecutors, probation officers, police, educators, and social service providers. The purpose is to have frank conversations about youth trends, issues regarding substance abuse and emotional health, with a comprehensive strategy for prevention and intervention plans for kids.

Mr. Burkhead gave a Sailor shout out to staff and DEI Director, Jamele Adams, as we celebrate our equity work. We are providing staff with training and professional development and Mr. Adams has been providing voluntary workshops for the staff, "Short Stops".

Town Administrator, Jim Boudreau

Mr. Boudreau said there is no Select Board meeting this week but it will be next week, 12/21. Capital and Advisory are meeting this week to discuss the budget.

1. Water Main construction has ceased for the season. The contractor will continue to install services on Rainbow Court and Greenfield Terrace. The Water Department will also be installing some new fire hydrants along Route 3A starting tomorrow. Testing and training of employees on the green sand filter on well 17A is on-going. The Pilot study at the water treatment plant is done for now. Consultant is reviewing the data and will have a report for us mid-December. They will also be back this winter to pilot treatment of the water when it is cold.
2. The total number of Covid cases for this past week was 42, up from 40 from the previous week. We with a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 4.90%, down from the 5.17% of last week. Plymouth County is at 7.7%, more than double the 3.67% I reported 2 weeks ago. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 5.17% trending up more than last week 4.74%. These percentage increases are consistent with the increase in case numbers that we are seeing. Numbers are increasing across the board as colder

weather arrives and people spend more time indoors. We expect numbers to go even higher after people got together for Thanksgiving.

Omicron variant has been discovered in Massachusetts and other states across the country. Preliminary data shows that Omicron is more contagious, but less severe. It will also be several weeks before we know how effective current vaccines are against Omicron. Very early data suggests that vaccinated individuals with the Omicron variant experience mild to no symptoms and are not hospitalized. At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense than 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 for details. Pfizer and Moderna vaccinations can be received 6 months after your second dose and J&J is 2 months after your shot.

3. DPW crews are still on the roads picking up debris from the recent storm. This will continue until we get it all or weather prevents it. Call if you want to check the list.
4. The paving at Widows Walk was done on Friday. The Pro shop is open and we are working on getting the clubhouse up and running. The RFP for the kitchen operator went out last week and is due 1/18. We will have an operator for the start of the golf season.
5. Humarock Fire Station has a temporary CO and is occupied by the Fire Department. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for this Friday, 12/17.