

*Approved August 11, 2020 – A full audio recording of this virtual meeting can be found on the Town's website under Wellfleet Town Media.*

**Wellfleet Selectboard with Emergency Management Team Meeting  
Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 10am  
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Selectboard Members Present:** Chair Michael DeVasto; Janet Reinhart; Helen Miranda Wilson; Justina Carlson; Ryan Curley

**Also Present:** Town Administrator Maria Broadbent; Executive Assistant Courtney Butler; Assistant Town Administrator Mike Trovato; Health Agent Hillary Lemos; Police Chief Michael Hurley; Fire Chief Rich Pauley; Community Services Director Suzanne Thomas;

Chair DeVasto called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. This meeting was held via Zoom and the recording is available on the Town website.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, OPEN SESSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Chief Hurley reminded the audience about the potential Tropical Storm Isais coming this way; he said the Emergency Management Team has been and will continue to be monitoring and providing any necessary. He said to call Eversource if there is a power outage, and to call the PD or FD if there is a tree down. Chief Hurley also noted that Eversource has pre-positioned crews, but their response time is slower than usual due to a decreased crew size.
- Audience member Denise Queally asked about the Governor's new travel advisory, which went into effect August 1, and asked if those with out-of-state registrations would be permitted to purchase a beach sticker or not.
- Audience member Susan Spear reminded the audience of the new Wellfleet Well Line, 508-514-1633, has been established to provide mental health services and assistance to those in need.

**COVID-19 UPDATES AND DISCUSSION**

Governor's August 1 travel order is in effect; wear masks when you cannot socially distance yourself from others; visitors and residents alike need to be proactive and conscious of keeping this matter under control. Chief Hurley said that in-bound travelers to MA from 42 states must register with the State; he noted that many businesses have had cancellations when informing guests of this policy. He said that the department will continue to report this information out and asked for everyone's cooperation.

Chair DeVasto said that just because someone has an out-of-state plate does not mean that they reside out-of-state and reminded everyone to not make assumptions or take matters into their own hands. Chief Hurley said that social media is becoming an issue for complaints being filed – please file complaints with Town Staff (recreation, beaches, police, fire, health) and do not file complaints on Facebook or take matters into your own hands.

Carlson said this would be a good time to hear from the business community, and asked to hear what they are doing to keep our community safe. Thomas said it was probably possible to require documentation, but needs to check with the beach sticker software. She did cite that many people use rental cars, which have out-of-state plates.

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Wilson said she was at a pond and witnessed unsafe behaviors, but could not have called due to poor reception. She asked Chief Hurley if she could have used the emergency phone on location; he said that if you feel it warrants an emergency then please use them.

### ***Cases and Testing - Outer Cape Health Update***

Lisa Kane, from Outer Cape Health Services (OCHS), gave an update, and was joined by Dr. Andrew Jorgensen. Wellfleet is doing testing on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings; Provincetown is doing testing on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday in mid-afternoons. Both sites require tele-visit prior to being tested is encouraged. Kane noted the long backup of testing results at the labs.

Dr. Jorgensen said the turn-around time for testing is handled by Quest Diagnostic and there is a priority ranking for tests. These priorities, Jorgensen said, is determined by the number of symptoms one is exhibiting as well as how at-risk they are. Additionally, the back-up is occurring due to a lack of supplies.

As for accuracy, Dr. Jorgensen said the tests being done today are the same tests from March. DeVasto asked if the false-negative rate was still high; Dr. Jorgensen said yes, about 17%, and that there are also false-positives. Discussing transmission, Dr. Jorgensen said that the idea is that once 10 days have past since the start of symptoms, and 24 hours have passed since a fever, one is considered no longer contagious.

Audience member Moe Barocas was concerned with rumors, surrounding an outbreak at a local bar. He also asked about the harbor walk, which was designated a one-way route earlier in the summer.

DeVasto asked the Health Agent, Lemos, to give an update. Lemos said Dr. Jorgensen's definition of a "close contact" was great – someone who you are in close contact with for 15 minutes or more with one or both parties not wearing a mask. As for cases, there are 2 confirmed cases and 1 suspect case in Wellfleet. She said that all restaurants have been contacted and their employees invited to attend a testing clinic in Harwich this week; over 150 employees will be tested. Lemos encouraged those with complaints to file them directly with the Health Department. Wilson asked what quarantining was considered to be; Lemos said it means to stay in your house unless you have to go out for essential items, however if they can safely leave to take a walk, they can do so.

DeVasto asked if there were problems with State reporting and also asked the protocol for giving this information to local Boards of Health. Lemos said that there are some testing sites, such as Care Well in Dennis, that take longer than others to report to the State system.

Audience member KC Meyers asked Lemos if there was a policy for publishing the name of the restaurant at which a worker tested positive. Lemos said there is no confirmed case at a restaurant and that we do not have a policy right now to publish their name; she said she hoped restaurants would be forth coming with information.

### ***Navigator Program Update***

Brianne Smith, from the Navigator Program, gave an update. Smith said this program is a free service for all Wellfleet residents to help them connect with all the great programs offered. Smith noted the work being done right now with many partners including Common Table. Information

about the Navigator Program can be found on the Town website or by calling Smith at 508-237-0132.

### ***Restaurant compliance***

Lemos said there is always non-compliance, so to gain compliance her department relies on communication, site inspections, and follow-ups on complaints. She said there is an outstanding issue in town that she hopes to resolve soon. Lemos thanked the public for their complaints and encouraged them to continue submitting them. Carlson asked Lemos what the Selectboard could do to support Lemos and her efforts. Lemos said she needs time to continue to work on things and she will be in touch in the coming weeks. Wilson asked why, if a restaurant is out of compliance, is that restaurant not shut down immediately. Lemos said that in order to follow the Governor’s requirements for enforcement there are steps that need to be taken. Speaking about the restaurant in non-compliance, Lemos said she spoke with them last week and is giving them one week (until tomorrow) to come into compliance, she said she would keep the Board up to date on what happens. There was further discussion about compliance during the pandemic.

Audience member Jude Ahern said that many people she has spoken to have enjoyed their summer here this year, but noted concern with the amount of time – one week – given to the restaurant to comply, was too much. She said it was too long because results are taking one week to return and quarantining is recommended for 14 days.

### ***Beaches and Beach Parking***

Butler noted that on August 11 at 7PM, Thomas will provide information regarding Curley’s request to extend the sticker season through September 27. Curley asked to also make mask-wearing mandatory at ocean beaches.

DeVasto asked to include the 14-day quarantine process, per the Governor’s orders, in the beach sticker process.

Audience member Kristen Shantz asked many questions regarding testing, contact tracing, and compliance. She also asked to look at food insecurity again in the fall. Shantz asked about the follow-up for the people who were rapid testing in Dennis, regarding false negatives or results, or how to proceed after testing. Lemos said that many of those people do not meet the mark of a close contact, as described by Dr. Jorgensen earlier, but they were all asked about the time spent with a “close contact”. She said that everyone who left Care Well should have received information about how to proceed. Lemos said she thought there was a decent handle on that, and the gold standard is the PCR test, which is why people are encouraged to call their doctors first.

### ***Other Recommendations and Updates***

- Carlson: update from business community and Chamber of Commerce.
- Curley: information about shelters in the time of COVID-19, re: Hurricane Season.
  - Chief Hurley said he recently did a walk through of the Nauset High School shelter and is closely working with the Barnstable County Emergency Management Team.
- Jennifer Wertkin, Library Director, said that pick-up services are going well. She also said that the Library has Verizon hot-spots to help those with connectivity issues.
- Audience member Mary Ellen Manning asked about having a sign installed on Coles Neck Road warning drivers to slow down around a curve.

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**TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

- Wilson: update from Chamber of Commerce
  - Wilson moved to delegate Carlson to contact the Chamber.
  - Curley seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Wilson moved to adjourn.
- Carlson seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Butler,  
Secretary