

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Town Commission
FROM: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
REPORT DATE: September 8, 2020
MEETING DATE: September 14, 2020
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Report

Recommended Action

None, informational only

Background

As the Commission is aware, the Town continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with our Interlocal Agreement with Sarasota and Manatee Counties, we coordinate our response with Sarasota County Emergency Management. I have tasked Fire Chief Dezzi with coordinating the Town's response to COVID-19. He and I continue to closely collaborate on all actions regarding the Town's operations.

I remain committed to providing daily updates to the Commission as well as to the public through various means, including our daily website posting and social media. We have enforced the Governor's Orders, as well as the Town's Emergency Orders.

The most recent Executive Order issued was EO 20-193 on August 7, 2020 extending EO 20-69 to allow Local Government Public Meetings to be held in a virtual format through October 1, 2020. Based on that Order we are planning on virtual meetings through the end of September.

The Town continues operating in Phase 2 of the State's Recovery Plan originally issued through EO 20-139 on June 3, 2020. Test data has indicated a recent trend of lower new positive test results. We have been fortunate on Longboat Key to have experienced extended periods with no active positives on Longboat Key, in either County. I believe that has been at least partly related to the Town's actions and the precautions taken by our residents. On Tuesday, September 8, we were made aware of 2 positive on the Manatee County side and are closely monitoring the potential for a spike in positives due to school openings in both counties, and Labor Day holiday.

The Commission adopted the mandatory mask ordinance on July 2, 2020 and extended that emergency ordinance for an additional 90 days at the August 31, 2020 Emergency Special Meeting.

We are holding to our current restrictions and plan to delay the opening of our Town buildings until the test results are more favorable. We are also delaying any further actions to lift restrictions at our Town amenities and will continue to evaluate the data and available information on a daily basis.

We believe it is critical to carefully consider which actions to take, and align those based on data, and input from public health officials, as well as the best interests of our residents' safety.

At the September 14, 2020 Regular Meeting, I will update the Commission on the current status of COVID-19 as it relates to Longboat Key. Chief Dezzi and I will be available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Staff Recommendation

None, information only.

End of Agenda Item