

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Town Commission
FROM: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
REPORT DATE: September 23, 2020
MEETING DATE: September 29, 2020
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update

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 all September meetings have been in the virtual format. It is not clear if the Governor will extend that requirement beyond October 1st. If it is extended, we plan on virtual meetings for October. If it doesn't happen, we plan to conduct the meetings in at least a hybrid format.

The Town continues operating in Phase 2 of the State's Recovery Plan 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 extended periods with no active positives on Longboat Key, in either County. I believe that is at least partly related to the Town's actions and the precautions taken by our residents. As of Wednesday, September 23, we are aware of 2 positive cases on the Manatee County side and are closely monitoring the potential for a spike in positives due to school openings in both counties, re-opening of bars, and Labor Day holiday.

The Commission adopted an emergency mandatory mask Ordinance on July 2, 2020 and adopted Ordinance 2020-13 at the August 31, 2020 Emergency Special Meeting providing for continuing mandatory mask wearing for an additional 90 days (through November 30, 2020).

We are holding to our current restrictions through October 1, after which all public beach access parking, and restrooms at Durante Park and Bayfront Park will re-open. We have also made some minor changes at the Tennis Center allowing for additional doubles play and Tennis Clinics on specific courts. However, we plan to delay opening our Town buildings until test results are more favorable and are maintaining all other restrictions at this time.

We continue to evaluate the conditions and update the Town's actions every two weeks. 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 29, 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.

Staff Recommendation

None, information only.

End of Agenda Item