

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Town Commission
FROM: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
REPORT DATE: December 2, 2020
MEETING DATE: December 7, 2020
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update

Recommended Action

None, informational only

Background

The Town Manager will review the latest information related to COVID-19 on Longboat Key. In addition, Chuck Henry, of the Sarasota County Department of Health will be present to discuss testing, the Florida Department of Health database, and contact tracing.

There are no changes to the Town's operations since my November 9, 2020 update to the Commission. All facilities are open with restrictions, although requests for use of Town property for events are reviewed for appropriate CDC and COVID-19 safety measures, on a case-by-case basis. We continue to urge individuals doing business with the Town to utilize our virtual customer service via e-mail, website, and phone for their own safety as well as the safety of Town staff.

The Town's Emergency Mask Ordinance passed at a Town Commission Emergency Special Meeting on November 9, 2020, remains in effect until March 31, 2020.

Test data continues to indicate a trend of higher, new positive test results, and we have seen an uptick in positive cases on Longboat Key. We continue to have more favorable numbers than other local communities. This is believed to be due to the Town's actions, and the precautions taken by our residents.

As of Wednesday, December 2, the Sarasota County Heat Map continues to indicate 0 active cases in the Sarasota County portion of Longboat Key and the State Dashboard is tracking "less than 5 cumulative cases" but, the State Dashboard is reporting 89 cumulative cases for the Manatee portion of 34228. We have been advised that the State data is defaulting to Manatee County for the entire zip code. Therefore, it is not clear how many cases are in each County portion of the Town. This is one of the issues that Mr. Henry has been asked to address at the meeting.

We continue to monitor the current trend in positives due post Phase 3 re-openings, holiday travel, and the increasing numbers of seasonal visitors to the island.

Staff Recommendation

None, information only.

End of Agenda Item