

Wellfleet Seasonal Residents Association

Promoting community involvement and communication

COVID19 Update Number 3

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Every Tuesday at 10 am, the Wellfleet town government holds a meeting of its Emergency Management Team over Zoom. Anyone can attend by using the link on the Wellfleet [website](#). Helpful information and notes from the meetings will also be posted there.

I attended the Zoom meeting on April 7. Here are the highlights that are of relevance to seasonal residents:

- Statistics on COVID in the state, Barnstable County, and the town are being put up on the town webpage. Since only a small number of people are being tested and since a quarter of people infected with the virus are asymptomatic, these numbers are best used for tracking the spread. As of now there are four cases in Wellfleet.
- Transfer station is only taking trash, no recycling.

There are a number of mutual aid programs on the lower Cape that link various departments in the towns, e.g. the food pantries, Common Table, sewing of masks).

- The town is keeping track of costs related to the pandemic and hopes to recapture some of these expenses down the line, possibly through state and federal grants. No one is suggesting tax increases at this point. The town administrator is working on a revised budget.
- Town meeting has been postponed until June 1, with the elections to be held on June 8. These dates are tentative. Further changes may be necessary in the next weeks.
- All playgrounds, tennis and pickle board courts are closed.

Concern was raised again at the Zoom meeting about presumed “day trippers” gathering on the beaches and the lack of social distancing when the weather is nice. Cast off gloves are littering the woods, outside the Wellfleet Market, and parking lots, another Town official reported.

No one wants, or is suggesting, closing the town-managed beach parking lots or the beaches themselves. As the weather gets better, the town government will have to re-assess this situation.

In response to the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak, Cape Cod National Seashore closed public buildings, including restrooms, on March 16, 2020. Beaches, trails, and parking areas remain open.

With the closing of restaurants around the country, the local shellfish and fishing personnel are having a very hard time. They are making their products available to community kitchens and some have been given permission to sell directly to consumers.

If you visit Wellfleet, be sure you quarantine yourself for 14 days after arrival even if you haven't been exposed to anyone with the disease, and even if you feel well.

Please be safe out there.

Susan M. Reverby, WSRA President