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 Bruce Forcier

Michael J. Sullivan
 Town Administrator

Report to the South Hadley Selectboard
March 11, 2021
 Town Administrator
 Michael J. Sullivan

COVID 19 Update

South Hadley continues to trend in a positive direction, this is largely due to the

Please use the following link to obtain more information on the progress of the virus, re-openings and vaccines <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates>

Below the South Hadley numbers indicate slight uptick in “confirmed” case, but a much more substantial increase under “contact” over the previous week. The number of contacts has been in the past a harbinger of things to come for confirmed cases. It makes sense, as the contacts are people who were likely exposed to a confirmed carrier. This is a statistic which would suggest we need to stay diligent in adhering to the guidelines.

LBOH Count - Events Per Disease and Classification in Jurisdiction

Classification:

confirmed,contact,probable,revoked,suspect

Event Dates from 03/01/2020 to 03/10/2021

Jurisdiction(s) selected: SOUTH HADLEY

Jurisdiction(s) used for report: SOUTH HADLEY

The report contains confidential information. The data are current as of 03/09/2021 and are subject to change.

Disease	Status	Num of Cases	3/2/2021	2/16/2021	2/9/2021	2/2/2021
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	CONFIRMED	891	866	842	807	782
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	CONTACT	692	663	648	617	588
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	PROBABLE	63	53	49	46	40
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	SUSPECT	19	19	19	19	19

As of March 2nd the positivity rate continues to trend lower for South Hadley and for the first time in a long time has dipped below 1% to .96%.



Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard – Thursday, March 4, 2021

Count and Rate of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Tests Performed in MA by City/Town, January 1, 2020 – March 2, 2021

City/Town	Total Case Count	Case Count (Last 14 Days)	Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100,000 (Last 14 days) ¹	Relative Change in Case Counts ²	Total Tests	Total Tests (Last 14 days)	Total Positive Tests (Last 14 days)	Percent Positivity (Last 14 days)	Change in Percent Positivity ³
Somerset	1793	55	21.2	Lower	28485	1633	62	3.80%	Lower
Somerville	4753	220	20.8	Higher	385618	35503	247	0.70%	No Change
South Hadley	882	39	15.4	Lower	44748	4982	48	0.96%	Lower
Southampton	342	18	21.4	Lower	9621	763	20	2.62%	Lower
Southborough	403	20	14.8	Lower	27854	2832	24	0.85%	No Change
Southbridge	1604	60	25.6	Lower	25444	1667	75	4.50%	Lower
Southwick	481	22	16.0	Higher	11658	720	22	3.06%	Higher
Spencer	730	40	24.9	Higher	16813	1134	41	3.62%	Higher
Springfield	17730	881	40.3	Lower	296791	22701	1053	4.64%	Lower

As you can see by the above analysis South Hadley’s trend is consistent with other cities and towns. I found it interesting that per capita SoHa is experience far more testing that Springfield, I have no idea what that means, but still interesting.



COVID-19

MASSACHUSETTS

STATE PROFILE REPORT | 02.28.2021

	STATE	STATE, % CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	FEMA/HHS REGION	UNITED STATES		
NEW COVID-19 CASES (RATE PER 100,000)	10,852 (157)	-2%	24,139 (163)	470,453 (142)		
VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY RATE	1.9%	-0.3%*	2.3%	5.1%		
TOTAL VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TESTS (TESTS PER 100,000)	546,792** (7,933**)	-11%**	890,107** (5,996**)	7,666,602** (2,309**)		
COVID-19 DEATHS (RATE PER 100,000)	294 (4.3)	-18%	590 (4.0)	14,791 (4.5)		
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 CASE	6%†	-2%*	6%	7%		
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW STAFF COVID-19 CASE	12%†	-4%*	13%	13%		
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 DEATH	3%†	-2%*	4%	4%		
CONFIRMED AND SUSPECTED NEW COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS (RATE PER 100 BEDS)	1,433 (8)	-2% (-2%)	2,895 (8)	82,786 (11)		
CONFIRMED NEW COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS (RATE PER 100 BEDS)	710 (4)	-6% (-6%)	1,500 (4)	42,108 (6)		
NUMBER OF HOSPITALS WITH SUPPLY SHORTAGES (PERCENT)	2 (3%)	+0%	16 (9%)	362 (7%)		
NUMBER OF HOSPITALS WITH STAFF SHORTAGES (PERCENT)	5 (8%)	+0%	24 (13%)	689 (13%)		
COVID-19 VACCINE SUMMARY	DOSES DELIVERED		1ST DOSE ADMINISTERED		2ND DOSE ADMINISTERED	
	TOTAL	RATE PER 100,000	TOTAL	PERCENT OF POPULATION	TOTAL	PERCENT OF POPULATION
	2,091,730	30,347	1,220,455	17.7%	496,356	7.2%

The above profile captures various indicators of the progress we are making in the Commonwealth. It suggests that overall, we are making progress in comparison to the national numbers including in respect to vaccines.

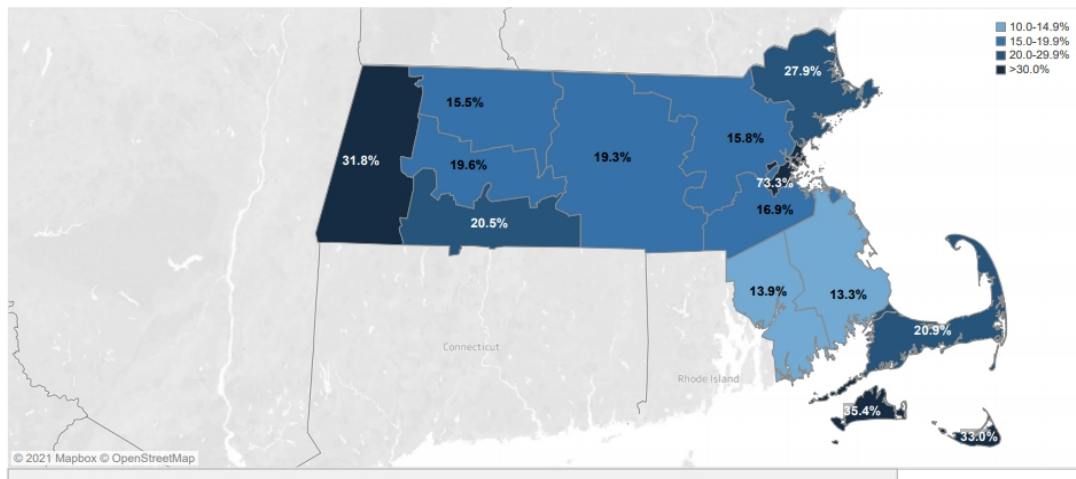
It would seem there has been a breakthrough for appointments in the last week. I did get an appointment last Thursday for March 11 at Eastfield Mall, strangely though I received a follow up email scheduling my second Pfizer vaccine, but it was scheduled in Dartmouth, Mass. I expect I will be able to change that at my appointment.

I have heard of some people getting vaccines the same day they tried to schedule, I know of one of my adult children who is a teacher getting the Johnson and Johnson one shot vaccine last Saturday. He signed in at 2 AM (baby was up) and got an appointment at the Granby CVS for that afternoon.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Thursday, March 4, 2021

Cumulative COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Shipped to Massachusetts Providers by County of Provider as a Percent of County Population

Data as of March 02, 2021



Note: Due to inputting and processing, it may take 24-48 hours or more for shipping or administration data to appear in MHS. MHS data are available for analysis one calendar day after they are reported to the MHS. As of 2/26/21, data reflect transfers between providers reported to the MHS. Some federal facilities in MA receive vaccine from a separate federal distribution system and would not be included here. These proportions use 2019 Donahue population estimates. Data on doses shipped does not include shipment data from the Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program and jurisdictional transfers to retail pharmacies shipments.

My advice on seeking a vaccine would be to stay at it, I suspect it will become easier as the days go by, if you are elderly or have. It is interesting how far some counties in Massachusetts are ahead in the process.

Recent Windstorm

March certainly came in like a lion, lets hope it becomes the proverbial lamb. South Hadley Electric Light and DPW crews worked throughout the night to restore power and remove hazards caused by the storm.



Below you can see some of the damage caused by a tree at Mosier School. The very next day the Facilities Coordinator Viv Price was working with the school staff and administration to address the removal of the down tree.

Our Insurance company was on scene that day and approved work to begin in respect to the necessary repairs.



This roof was recently repair (4 years), the damage was not covered by the warrantee obviously, but so the warrantee is not voided by the manufacturer the local representative for Tristate Roofing (Ed Boisselle) made himself available immediately to address the damage and give the Facilities Coordinator helpful advice on getting the necessary repairs in place quickly. We hope the work will be completed in the next 30 days.

Capital Planning Update



The South Hadley Capital Planning Committee recently held a virtual meeting to discuss the FY 2022 capital needs. As with prior years it is unlikely with over \$3 million in department request every need will be funded in FY 22. However, I believe a very aggressive plan can be offered which will address the most immediate needs and continue the progress made in the road and sidewalk investments which have unfolded over the seven years.

This photo was taken of the underbelly of the Michael E. Smith Middle School in 2014 when Gale Associates did a report which stated the pool was in tough shape. This is a case where a picture certainly tells the story. The estimated repair seven years ago was around \$280K. The Facilities Coordinator Viv Price and the Interim Superintendent Diana Bonneville have reached out to Gale Associates to ask a quote for an engineering update on the condition, but more so on the estimated cost. The pool has been drained and is not presently being used. I suspect once the cost estimate there will be a discussion between the School Committee, the Selectboard, Capital Planning, Appropriations and most importantly the public about

The big-ticket item is the need to invest in a new dispatch system for public safety. The present system is outdated, with many of the component parts simply unavailable. There are no warranties on the equipment, and it is not a system which I would recommend tempting fate. The previous years estimates were considerably higher (\$1.8M), but through some research by the Police in cooperation with SHELDT the estimated cost has been winnowed down. I do not believe waiting will make this item any less expensive and definitely not less prone to failure.

Spring Leaf Pick-up



Curbside collection of yard waste begins **March 29** and will run through **April 23**. Paper bags or open top containers only; Must be curbside by 7AM on your Collection Day. Each trash route will have two collections. Brush must be tied in bundles (no metal) of not more than four-foot lengths. Leaves, grass, and brush only. Please do not use plastic bags, as the contractor will not take your leaves.

You also can use the drop off scheduler on the DPW website to drop off lawn debris, this is a great time as there are plenty of convenient times open, I suspect as the weather gets better the appointments will become less available.

I hope all lawns look this good and there is as few leaves as depicted. I am sure many would agree a handful of leaves and one bag of debris would be a Spring victory.

Budget Update

There has been a change made to the draft budget in terms of the Veteran Service budget. To add transparency to the budget the cost of the administration of veteran claims has been added in a line item.

While this is not a material change or does it affect the net general fund costs it does move the recovered cost from a Cherry Sheet entry to the net cost of government. We expect the historical reimbursement of 75% of cost related to Veteran Services from the state will still be recovered.

We are expecting a slight change to the I&P for bonding by taking the opportunity to pay down some short-term debt. Those changes have not been finalized and we will continue to work with our bond advisor to manage those costs.

Annual Town Elections

The Annual South Hadley Town Elections are scheduled for Tuesday April 13th. All precincts vote at South Hadley High School. The elections will be from **10AM until 6PM** the day of the election.



Town Clerk Carlene Hamlin has placed information about absentee ballots on the “Election” web page (link below)

<https://www.southhadley.org/620/Elections>

Voters may submit requests for absentee ballots, once the ballots are available they will be mailed to the requesting parties as quickly as possible. There is new information coming in from the state regularly and the information will be updated as it is received

As we start to mail those ballots the “dropbox” depicted on the left will be available for delivering those ballots. It is located at the rear of the Police Station under the surveillance cameras. There always is the option to mail the ballots. Unlike some of the media representations of USPS not being able to deliver these ballots on time. It has not been a problem in South Hadley.

The Town Clerk has a good and effective working relationship with the local postmaster and stays in close contact with the South Hadley Post Office to ensure delivery. If a ballot is mailed in South Hadley the local postmaster works to keep those ballots in town and avoid having them go to a regional sorting center as is the case with most mail. The efforts by the Clerk and the South Hadley Postmaster are appreciated and should give voters an added level of confidence in regards to mail-in ballots.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan
South Hadley, Town Administrator