

Jeff Cyr, Chair
 Sarah Etelman, Vice-Chair
 Carol Constant, Clerk
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Michael J. Sullivan
 Town Administrator

**Town Administrator 's Report to the South
 Hadley Selectboard
 May 17, 2021**

**COVID 19 Update
 Cases**

LBOH Count - Events Per Disease and Classification in Jurisdiction

Classification: confirmed,contact,probable,revoked,suspect

Event Dates from 03/01/2020 to 05/12/2021

Jurisdiction(s) selected: SOUTH HADLEY

Jurisdiction(s) used for report: SOUTH HADLEY

The report contains confidential information. The data are current as of 05/11/2021 and are subject to change.

Disease	Status	Num of Cases	5/4/2021	4/27/2021	4/20/2021
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	CONFIRMED	1038	1034	1024	1013
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	CONTACT	813	813	766	766
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	PROBABLE	88	86	84	82
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	SUSPECT	22	21	21	21

As you can see from the above data, we have started to see demonstrable signs of the virus spread slowing in South Hadley. As has been widely reported the Center for Disease Control has issued new guidance on nearly every directive, guideline or regulation related to the pandemic. We are expecting the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to issue guidance this week which will likely expand the easing of restrictions. I expect we will be back to openly coughing on each other in public very soon.....kidding.....sort of .

The South Hadley Health Department will be sifting through the information as it is released and working with municipal departments, businesses, and other entities to help with specific guidance.

Vaccines

ZIP	Individuals with at least one dose	Fully vaccinated individuals	Partially vaccinated individuals
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	5518	3900	268	4042	2693	220	1476	1207	48
	'Female'	'Male'	'Other'	'Female'	'Male'	'Other'	'Female'	'Male'	'Other'

The above data was copied from the state site related to the 01075-zip code. This information is as of May 13 at 5 PM. While I did not do a comprehensive or detailed comparison it would seem to me South Hadley has done better than most communities in getting inoculated against COVID 19. I would also point out there is room for improvement.

I would also take a moment to thank COA employees and the Director Leslie Hennessey for their cooperative efforts with the Health Department to help get people a shot in the arm to fight the spread of COVID 19. Thank you all!

Re-opening

The plans to re-open the Senior Center @ Dayton Street has met indirectly with COVID, or at least that was one of the challenges. There was a loss of several weeks when some key tradesmen contracted the virus back in the winter and then there has been scheduling interruptions due to supply chain and necessary change orders issues for several months.

The South Hadley Public Library re-opened and Library Director Joe Rodio has reported there has been little problem thus far and visitors have been generally cooperative in staying within the prescribed rules and guidelines. There also is plans to grow some outdoor activities at Gaylord to try to alleviate some of the space limitations at the branch.

The Recreation Department is working on expanding youth sports and looking to partner with other organizations to expand a variety of offerings. The guidelines have been changing so quickly we have paused any changes in signage, as the regulations were evolving so quickly the messaging was out of date before the printed material was being posted.

We ask residents and visitors to continue their high level of cooperation and common sense. While there may be a sign up asking for face coverings, if you feel comfortable that you are healthy, you have been vaccinated and can maintain appropriate social distancing then there should not be a problem.

Annual Town Meeting

The planning has begun in full for the June 9 Annual Town Meeting to be held “drive-in” style at St Theresa’s Church (4 East Parkview). The Selectboard will

116 MAIN STREET, SUITE 109, SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01075-2896

consider a warrant with 20 articles to present to Town Meeting at the May 18 meeting. The TA Review of Articles and the Appropriation Hearing on financial articles on the warrant will be held via Zoom May 25 at 6 PM. Link information will be on the Appropriation page of the town website later this week.

For the most part the warrant will contain some annually required articles, financial articles including the FY 22 budget, River Lodge Road acceptance and an easement article. Nothing very controversial, but I suspect there will be a “return to normal” Special Town Meeting early in the fall with some articles which will deserve hefty public debate. Maybe even held at the new Senior Center, but I will be just another innocent by-stander by then I suspect.

We will be adding porta-potties and hand wash station and a seating area (for those who wish to get out of their cars) to the venue. However, the most interesting advance will be the addition of hand-held tabulators for voting on articles (if approved by TM). These devices have been used by Town Meetings in Massachusetts and elsewhere for well over a decade. They have been proven to be more accurate, more efficient, and once in place there is no known community who has gone back to the old way. As a “belt and suspenders” approach we will have the red/green paddles we used last year on-hand.

PVTA X-90A Route

As a member of the PVTA board and as South Hadley Town Administrator I have expressed my objections to any adjustment in the present X-90A/B Routes which come over or to the Vietnam Memorial Bridge providing transportation access to South Hadley going to the Fairview area of Chicopee, Memorial Drive and beyond. There was an interanal suggestion to have the bus return to the Willamansett Bridge crossing of years ago to save an additional three minutes.

Given the R29 and the X90 are the only routes to major centers provided to South Hadley as the community tries to grow acceptance and increase workforce housing, lessening PVTA routes in town would be a major step in the wrong direction. Thankfully, I believe I convinced the PVTA staff charged with reviewing routes that we should increase access for South Hadley before decreasing any further routes.

Director of Human Resources

After recently being recommended to me by a vetting panel, as the appointing authority I have promoted Michelle Parent to the position of Director of Human

Resources. As per policy the position was posted internally and based on the posting and description the panel determined that Ms. Parent was well qualified and competent to fill the position.

Having worked with Ms. Parent for over two years in her role a Payroll and Benefits Coordinator, I whole heartedly agree with the panel's recommendation. She has a great work ethic, is thoughtful in her interactions and is more than willing to learn and work to grow the services provided by the Human Resource Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan
Town Administrator, South Hadley