

Jeff Cyr, Chair
 Sarah Etelman, Vice-Chair
 Christopher Geraghty, Clerk
 Andrea Miles
 Carol Constant

Michael J. Sullivan
 Town Administrator

Town Administrator’s Report to the Selectboard April 15, 2021

Congratulations to the newest South Hadley Selectboard Member Carol Constant

COVID 19 Update

Pandemic Data

LBOH Count - Events Per Disease and Classification in Jurisdiction

Classification: confirmed,contact,probable,revoked,suspect

Event Dates from 03/01/2020 to 04/14/2021

Jurisdiction(s) selected: SOUTH HADLEY

Jurisdiction(s) used for report: SOUTH HADLEY

The report contains confidential information. The data are current as of 04/13/2021 and are subject to change.

Disease	Status	Num of Cases	4/6/2021	3/30/2021	3/23/2021
Novel Coronavirus	CONFIRMED	998	976	947	919
Novel Coronavirus	CONTACT	755	744	730	719
Novel Coronavirus	PROBABLE	80	77	74	67
Novel Coronavirus	SUSPECT	19	18	18	19

As the above data shows, the number of cases continue to rise in South Hadley. It seems very likely we will see more than 1,000 cases in town at the next reporting. While we wait for the pandemic to subside, we cannot stress the importance of following the well-known protocols (wearing a mask, social distancing, avoiding crowds, washing/sanitizing hands, getting tested if you suspect you may be exposed, etc.). The health of the community is critically dependent on the cooperation of the entire community.

The Health Department remains incredibly busy as they are dealing with COVID related tasks and the normal surge of work they see annually in the spring. This includes, but is not limited to, property maintenance complaints, Title 5 septic inspections, new dogs in neighborhoods (they are so cute when they are puppies 😊), reviewing of plans including “re-opening plans,” health inspections of facilities, tracking/contacting individuals who have confirmed COVID cases, working on vaccine opportunities for citizens and communicating changes to various and appropriate departments.

Thank you to everyone in the Health Department for their efforts. I ask the public's understanding and patience if it takes a little longer to react to your concern. We still encourage you to email and/or call the Health Department with any questions or concerns. There is also a great deal of information on the website.

Vaccine Data

Town	Age Group	Population	Proportion of town population	Proportion of town individuals with at least one dose	Proportion of town fully vaccinated individuals
South Hadley	0-19 Years	3,998	22%	1%	1%
South Hadley	20-29 Years	3,221	18%	7%	6%
South Hadley	30-49 Years	3,793	21%	22%	19%
South Hadley	50-64 Years	3,451	19%	26%	22%
South Hadley	65-74 Years	1,927	11%	23%	23%
South Hadley	75+ Years	1,686	9%	20%	29%
South Hadley	Total	18,076			

As of April 14, 14% of South Hadley's population has received at least one dose of a vaccine. The chart to the left breaks down the vaccine administration by age group.

As should be expected at this point the older populations are showing a higher percentage of inoculation.

The news about the J&J vaccine being placed on pause is disappointing, but necessary to review the evidence related to this one-dose vaccine. I suspect the distribution and use of J&J will be restored, although there may be limitations placed on groups based on the commonality of the people who have been adversely affected by the vaccine. As of this writing there has been six out of more than six million who have developed unusual clotting. We continue to encourage the residents of South Hadley to get the vaccine and speak with their

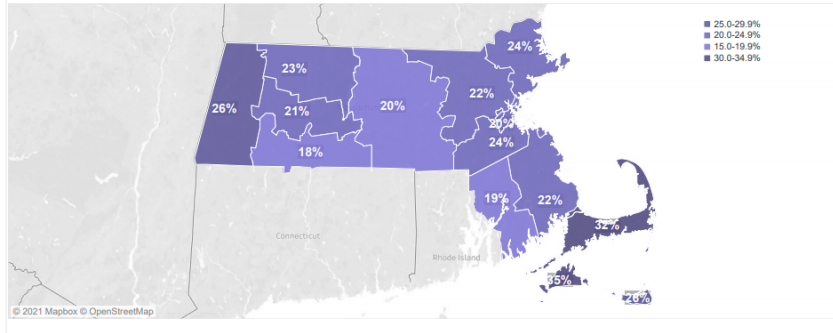
primary care physician if they have any concerns or reluctance. You should be aware we have received a very small number of cases from people who have become

Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Thursday, April 8, 2021

Cumulative Percentage of Individuals who are Fully Vaccinated by County of Resident Address

Data as of April 06, 2021

Percentage of Individuals Fully Vaccinated



NOTE: Data from MIS (see "definitions"). Data reflect doses administered and reported (see "definitions"), including Janssen/Johnson & Johnson beginning on 3/5/21. An individual is counted as fully vaccinated if they have received the 2nd dose of Moderna or Pfizer or have received a dose of Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Doses without address records are not included in this view. Some individuals may receive a first or second dose of Moderna or Pfizer from a non-reporting provider and would not be included as fully vaccinated. These proportions use Donahue population estimates from 2019.

positive after they have received both shots. It is something we are following more closely.

Reopening Plan

The re-opening of public building and spaces will be deliberate. The method of opening is slow but sure. We do not want to create interruptions in service. Over several years prior the Town of South Hadley made investments in, and worked to gain a deeper understanding of, online services. As we all have realized, those changes will not disappear when the pandemic is defeated. Many have seen how those efficiencies have increased convenience and made town hall more (virtually) available.

The primary goal is to continue to be able to provide excellent services. This is possible by protecting staff and the public from spreading the virus. It must be understood the Town of South Hadley has limited capacity in each department - that capacity could be significantly interrupted if the virus spreads within a department. The unintended interruption may cause others seeking the service to be adversely affected.

The cost of adding staff, training, and finding qualified personnel for these critical positions would be both expensive and short-sighted. The risk for loss of service to the public during any retrenchment or securing temporary help would far outweigh the benefits of town hall access at this juncture. Given those legitimate concerns about continuing online services and avoiding necessary pause in town hall services, we will remain closed to the public for the next 60 days.

However, we will make accommodations to provide service via electronic means, over the phone, curbside or in some very limited capacity in-person outside of the building. This strategy will be continuously revisited by administration and the Health Director/Emergency Management Director. If you have a situation which we have not been able to accommodate, please give us a call and we will look for a solution.

The public library has just recently worked to have its comprehensive re-opening plan approved by the Health Director. The library will continue to offer curbside and limited delivery but beginning in sometime in early May there will be limited access under the guidelines promulgated by the Library Director and the Health Department. Part of the standards will be all visits will be limited to a certain number, the visits will be scheduled and limited to a half hour, masks will be required, as well as other requirements. These regulations are consistent with the Commonwealth's Department of Public Health, the South Hadley Health Department, and the Massachusetts Library Association.

A full copy of the regulations will be circulated on the town website when finalized. The other convenience services Director Rodio has put in place will remain.

The next facility we will likely open to the public will be the senior center. As most people are aware there are multiple challenges with this specific re-opening. First, the facility is under construction and close (not as close as we would like) to completion.

Given the Dayton Street facility should be completed by June it makes little sense to attempt to reopen at St Theresa's and all that would entail. This building will serve the most vulnerable population in terms of COVID-19, so every precaution will be taken as Director Hennessey, her staff and the Health Department work out the details. On a recent call with DPH, the Lieutenant Governor and Town Administrators, re-opening senior centers was very top of mind. It seemed the predominant thinking was the operations would resume in most communities in June or July. I realize there are exceptions, and some are already providing some limited services at facilities.

South Hadley Parks COVID-19 Restrictions



In a recent meeting of the Park's Superintendent, the Recreation Director, the DPW Director and myself we had an opportunity to discuss the upcoming summer season. The dialogue centered around how we can make this a safe and enjoyable summer in our parks, especially Buttery Brook and the Beachgrounds - two of the crown jewels in the SoHa Park system.

We will be increasing the spray park times and follow the traditional calendar. The sprayscapes will open May 29 at 10 a.m. and will be operating (unless there is rain) until 4 p.m. that Saturday, Sunday and Monday (holiday). In subsequent weekends it will operate Saturday and Sunday. Once school gets out, we will expand it to seven days a week 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. We will have the option when there is excessive heat to increase the hours until 7 p.m.

There will be sani-cans available, and we will allow some limited access to bathrooms depending on summer staffing options. We ask people to be respectful and continue to observe the COVID regulations which is on signage throughout the parks.

At Buttery Brook we will not be taking reservations or encouraging large gatherings. In this case we will be opening the various facilities as staffing will allow and will work to keep those hours posted at the parks. We have spoken with surrounding communities, and although there are variations, for the most part similar moderation is the most common approach.

We also continue to request visitors take responsibility for their trash. Like the National Parks Service we ask that what you bring in you take with you when you leave. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Tech Cohort

Thank you to Kristin Maher, James Doolittle, Sarah Gmeiner and Dan Pease for the efforts on this initiative. This group has been meeting regularly to discuss ways and means we may improve access and operability across our technology and various medias.

They have allowed me to sit in on a few of their meetings as the Luddite representative. I appreciate their tolerance of my lack of knowledge, and at the same time I am fascinated by their grasp of the cyber and communication world.

This group works through suggestions, requests and ideas brought to us from employees and citizens to look at how we can make more information easily available. Soon you will see some scheduling platforms, public service messages and improved web updates which this group is creating and facilitating. Greater use of what we have does not cost us any more - this valuable group of employees gets it.

Recent Town Election

Thank you to the election worker, Registrar of Voters, town hall support staff and voters for their participation and facilitation in this important municipal activity. Congratulations to those who were elected to various positions. We also should thank everyone who stood before the voters, no matter the individual outcome. It takes a special citizen to stand for election.

It should go without saying the success of this election, as is the case with all South Hadley elections, to be fair and open to the greatest extent possible must be credited to the work of Town Clerk Carlene Hamlin. Thank you for your diligence!

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Sullivan
South Hadley, Town Administrator