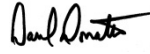




Town of Palm Beach Fire-Rescue



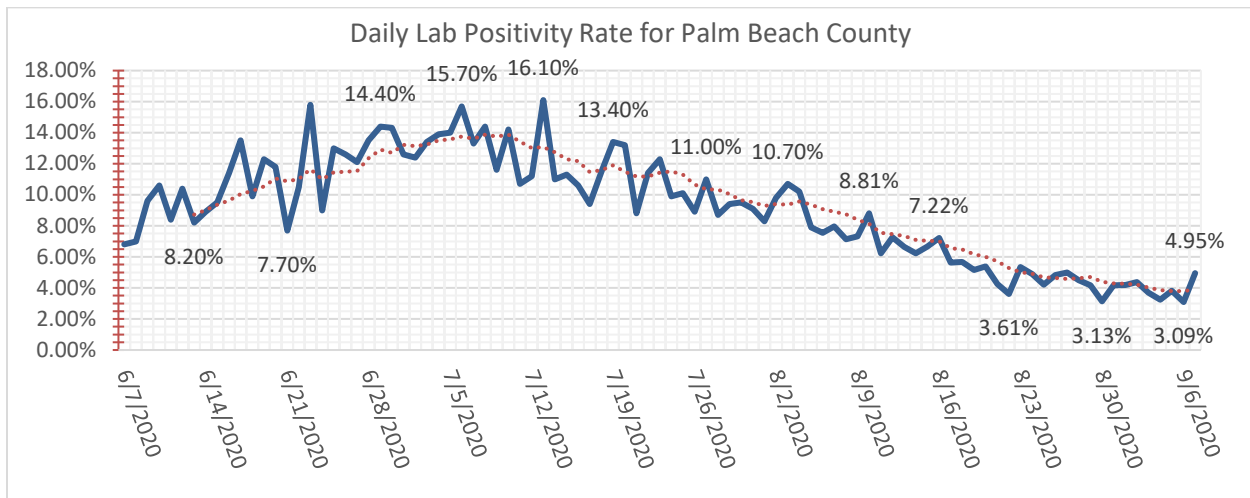
TO: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: Darrel Donatto, Fire Rescue Chief 

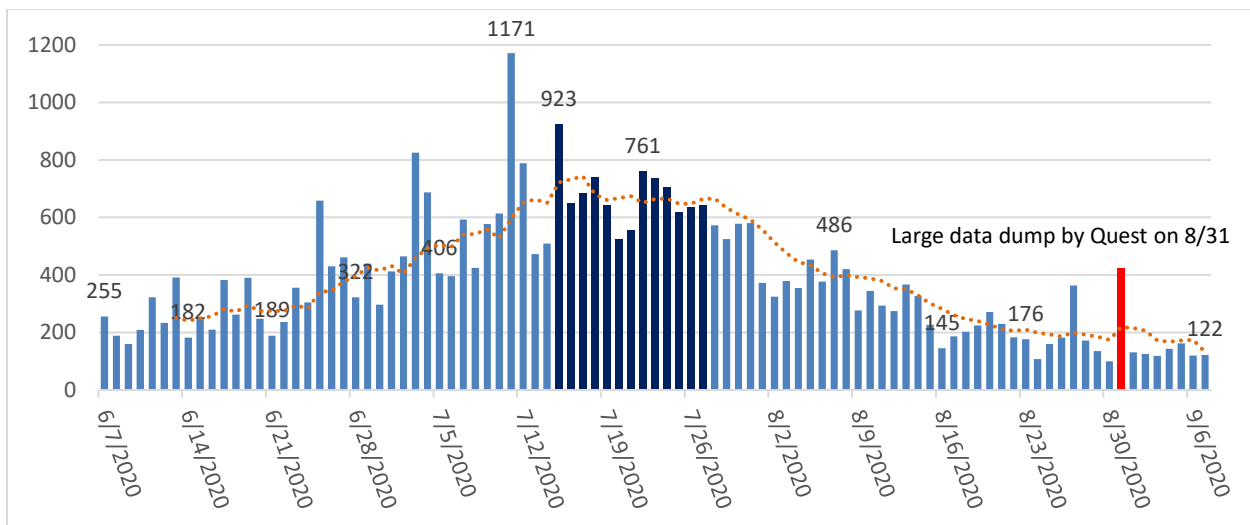
SUBJECT: September Update on COVID-19 pandemic

DATE: September 8, 2020

There has been a significant change in the percent of positivity and the number of new cases each day in Palm Beach County. The peak in the seven-day moving average of the percent of positivity in Palm Beach County was almost 14% on July 10th. Today's seven-day moving average of the percent of positivity in Palm Beach County is just under 4%.



The seven-day moving average of the number of new cases per day in Palm Beach County occurred on July 11th and remained near that peak for two weeks.

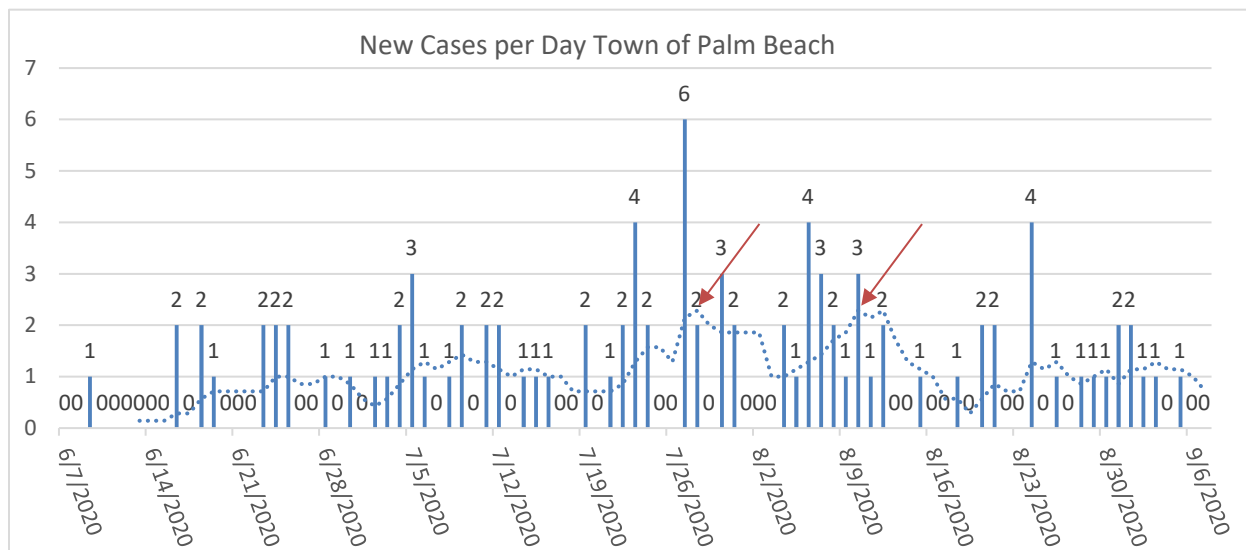


The virus has not changed or become less virulent. People changed their behaviors. Through social distancing and face-covering use, they decreased the amount of transmission from person to person.

When the governments of countries that previously had the spread of the disease under control, including Spain, France, Italy, and Germany, began to lift lockdowns at the start of the European summer, the number of positive cases of COVID-19 have steadily increased. Right here in Palm Beach County, when we went into Phase 1 of the reopening, we saw our numbers grow. This does not have anything to do with the virus's virulence, but instead everything to do with people's behaviors and human psychology.

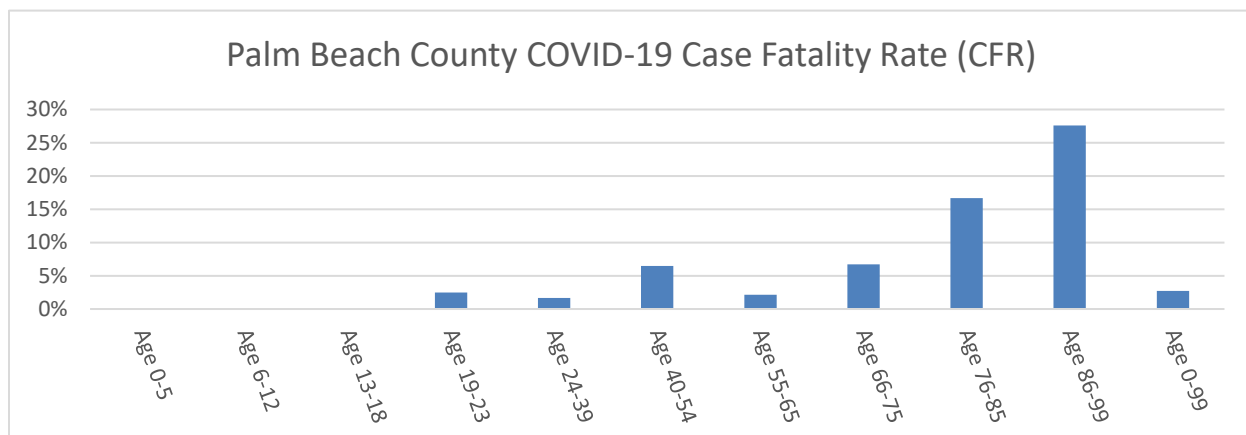
As Palm Beach County moves into the next reopening level, people cannot stop social distancing and face-covering use or we will experience a significant resurgence in positive cases and the percent of positivity. This is the message from Dr. Alonso of the Palm Beach County Health Department, and it should be the message from the Town to its resident.

The Town of Palm Beach has maintained a relatively steady average of 1 to 1.4 new cases per day since June. Around July 27th, the seven-day moving average for new cases in the Town went over 2 per day. Around August 10th, the seven-day moving average for new cases in the Town went over 2 per day.

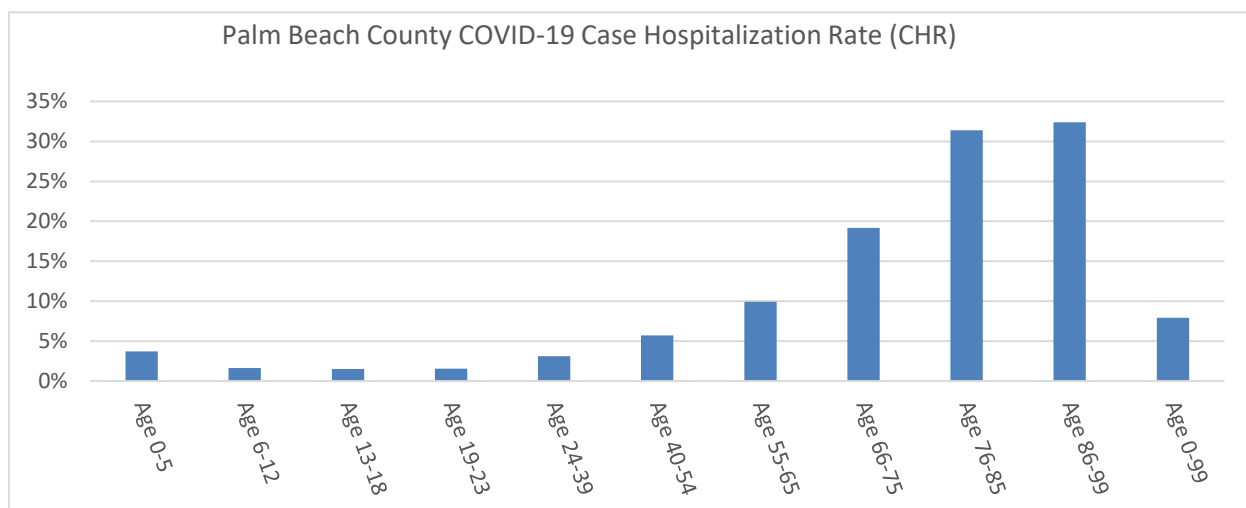


As of September 7, 2020, there has been a cumulative total of 1,170 COVID-19 deaths in Palm Beach County. The Town is aware of 5 cases where residents from the Town have died as a result of COVID-19.

The case fatality rate (CFR) is a key metric for evaluating a virus' lethality. CFR is calculated as the number of deaths divided by the number of confirmed cases for a particular population in a specific geographic area. This chart breaks down the CFR by age groups to highlight that COVID-19 is far more lethal for the elderly.



The case hospitalization rate (CHR) is a metric for evaluating how much stress a virus puts on hospitals. CHR is calculated as the number of hospitalizations with Covid-19 divided by the number of confirmed cases for a particular population in a specific geographic area. This chart breaks down the CHR by age groups to highlight that COVID-19 is far more dangerous for the elderly.



Given the average age of the Town's residents, these two charts emphasize how important it is for our residents to protect themselves. The primary means of preventing transmission of the coronavirus remain the same. They include wearing a proper facemask, washing your hands frequently, maintaining social distance, avoiding large gatherings, especially large indoor gatherings. Residents should continue to follow these guidelines until a vaccine becomes available.

The Town and its residents cannot allow compliance fatigue or complacency to set in. The risk to our residents, because of their higher average age, is high. Moreover, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) COVID-19 projections for Florida (<https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america/florida>) is projecting an increase in the number of cases and deaths in Florida by November-December 2020.

The Town has been very proactive in its effort to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. Current educational efforts, restrictions on large gatherings, and the support of face-covering usage should continue until a vaccine is available.