




## Town of Palm Beach Fire-Rescue



TO: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

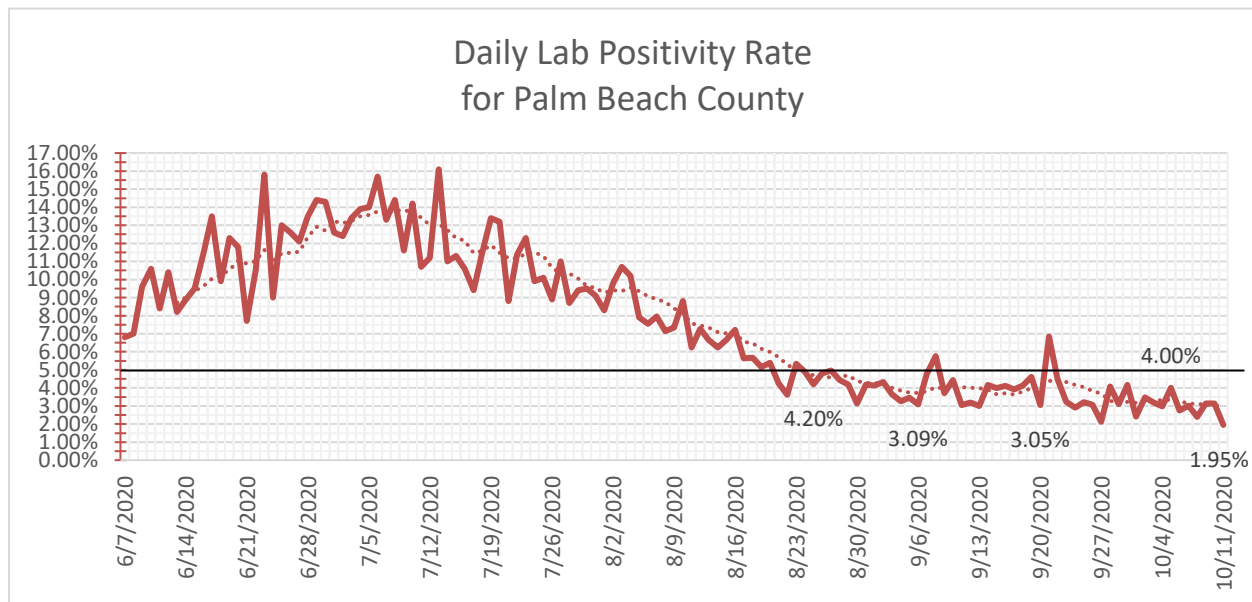
FROM: Darrel Donatto, Fire Rescue Chief 

SUBJECT: October Update on COVID-19 pandemic

DATE: October 12, 2020

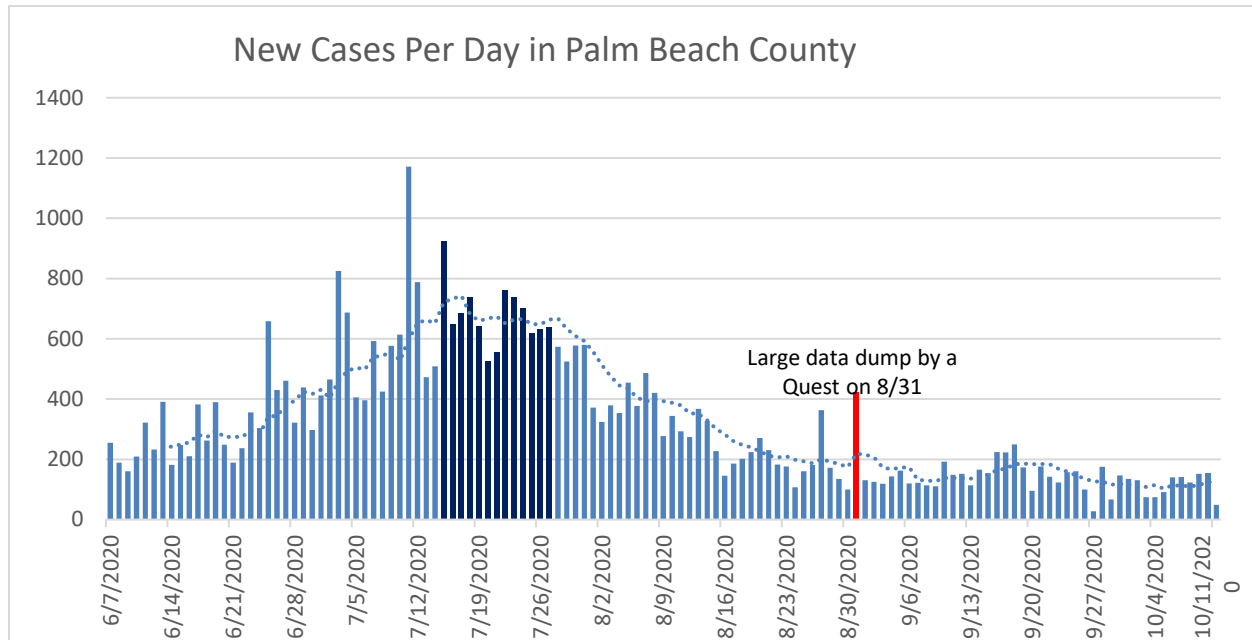
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We continue to see a percent of positivity below 5% in Palm Beach County. A low percent positive simply means that the level of coronavirus transmission, relative to the amount of testing, is low at this point in time. The peak in the seven-day moving average of the percent of positivity in Palm Beach County was almost 14% on July 10th. The World Health Organization recommends that the percent positivity remains below 5% for at least two weeks before governments consider re-opening. Palm Beach County's seven-day moving average of the percent of positivity has remained below 5% since August 21, 2020. Today's seven-day moving average of the percent of positivity in Palm Beach County is just under 3%.



We have not reached a low percent of positivity through herd immunity. Instead, we have gotten there by reducing coronavirus transmission levels through policies restricting social contact, the use of face masks, and wide spread testing. That said, the vast majority of the population here in Palm Beach County is still vulnerable to getting COVID-19; and thus, it is essential that individuals continue to practice social distancing and wearing a facemask to keep the percent of positivity low.

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 current seven-day moving average for new cases in Palm Beach County is 122.



The Town of Palm Beach's average number of new cases per day has dropped within the Town of Palm Beach. Previously, the Town had an average of 1 to 1.4 new cases per day since June. Currently, the seven day average of new cases in the Town is .28 cases per day. The reduction in the Town's new cases per day makes sense given the decline in Palm Beach County cases and the fact that many people have traveled north for the summer.

As of October 12, 2020, there has been a cumulative total of 1,449 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 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. The Town has been very proactive in its effort to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. Given the re-opening of businesses and restaurants within all of Palm Beach County, and restrictions on fines or penalties for enforcement of COVID related restrictions, the Town's best option to maintain a low percentage of positivity and a low number of new cases per day is through education. The Town should continue to remind our residents of the need to wear face-coverings and practice social distancing until a vaccine is available.