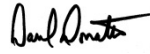




Town of Palm Beach Fire-Rescue



TO: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

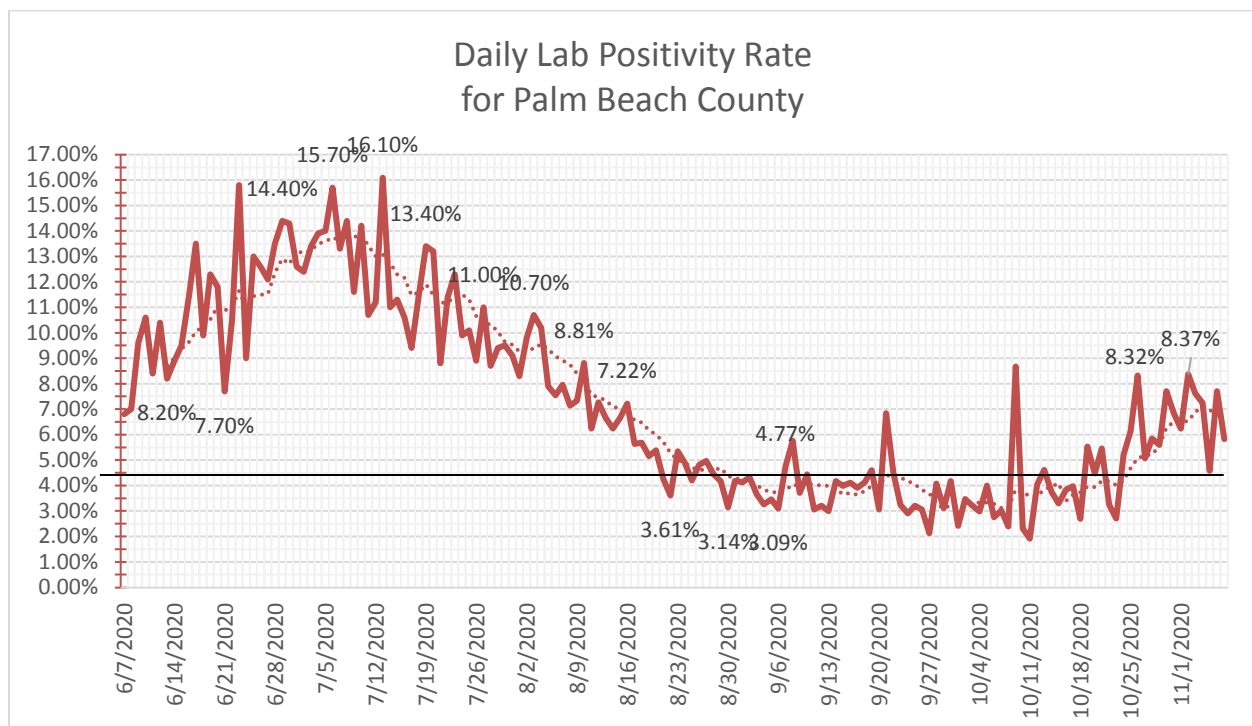
FROM: Darrel Donatto, Fire Rescue Chief 

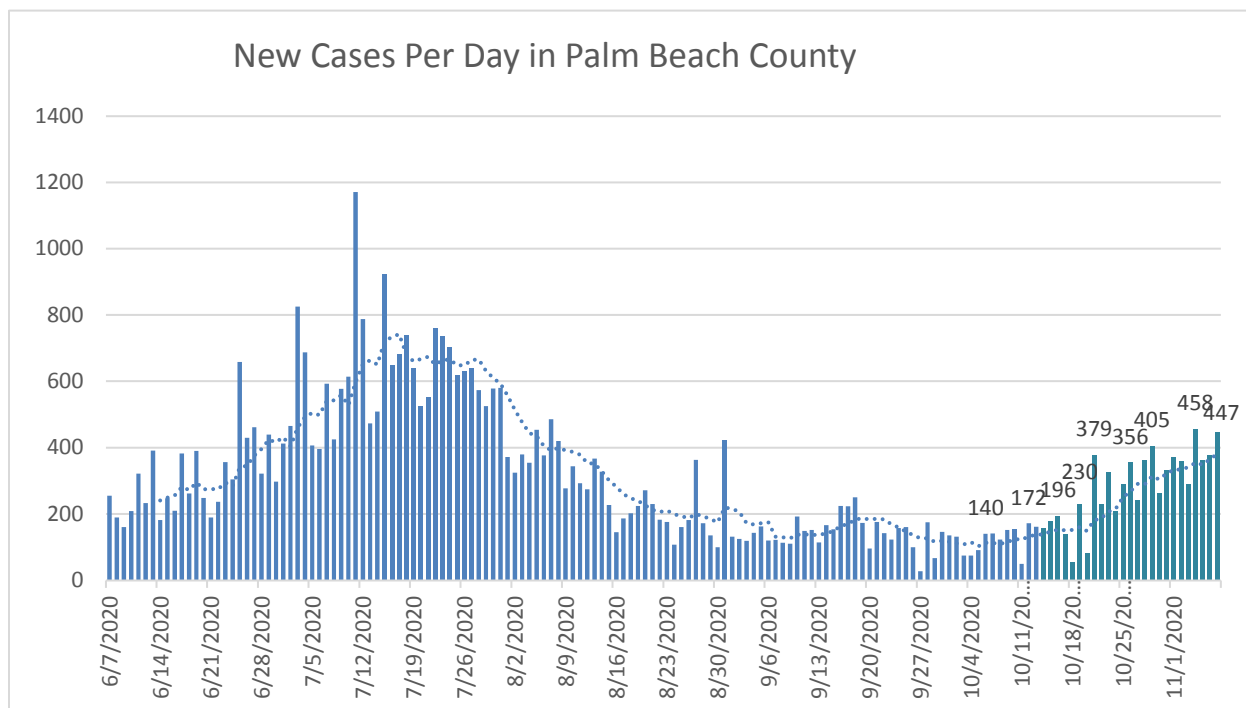
SUBJECT: November Update on COVID-19 pandemic

DATE: November 9, 2020

Many have suggested, and the data supports, that we are in the third wave of increasing COVID-19 cases both here in the Town and Palm Beach County. The seven-day moving average for the percent of positivity in Palm Beach County fell below 5% at the beginning of September and remained below 5% until October 25. Since October 25, we have seen an increase in the percent positivity and the number of new cases per day in Palm Beach County. The seven-day moving average for the percent of positivity in Palm Beach County is currently 6.8%. The seven-day moving average of the number of new cases per day in Palm Beach County is now 381. At the time of the last Council update in October, the seven-day moving average for new Palm Beach County cases was only 122.

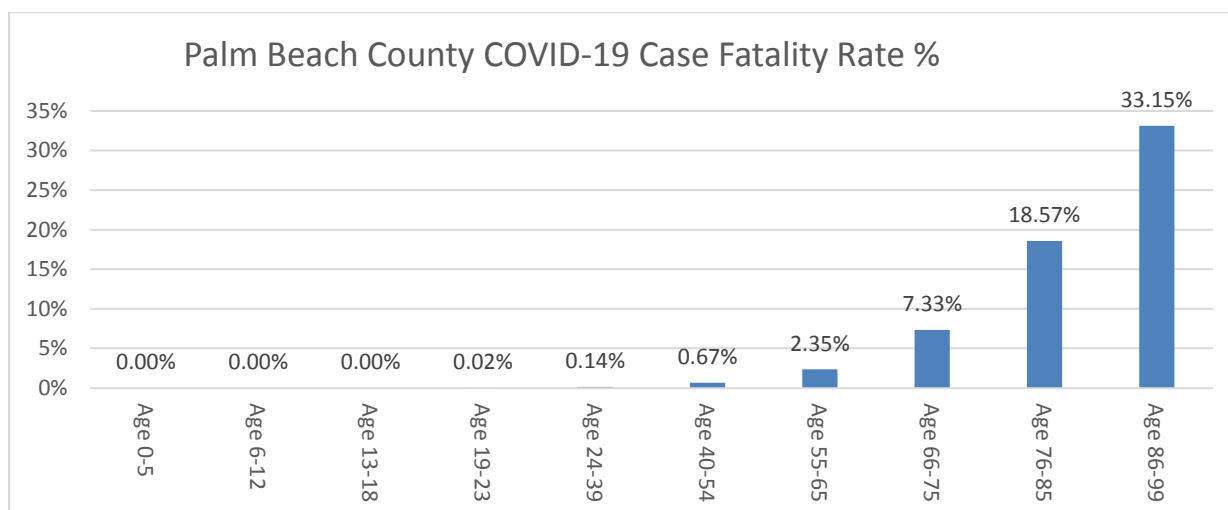
Certainly, the increase in the number of people returning to the area and increased social gatherings have contributed to the increase in positivity and new cases. The public needs to limit close contact with others and, most importantly, use a face mask to reduce the percent of positivity and transmission levels. In a County of 1.5 million people, only 55,000 have tested positive for COVID-19. Thus, the vast majority of Palm Beach County residents are still vulnerable to getting COVID-19 and transmitting the virus to others.





Because of the relatively low number of new cases per day within the Town (between 1 and 6), it is hard to show trends related to COVID within the Town statistically. As of the last Council meeting update in October, the seven-day moving average for new cases within the Town was .28 cases per day. Currently, the seven day average of new cases in the Town is 1.86 cases per day.

As of November 8, 2020, there has been a cumulative total of 1,609 COVID-19 deaths in Palm Beach County, representing about 3% of all Palm Beach County positive cases. For those over the age of 65, the Case Fatality Rate averages 20%, meaning about 1 out of 5 dies from the disease. The older you are, the more fatal is the disease. The Town is aware of 8 cases where residents from the Town have died as a result of COVID-19.



Palm Beach Fire Rescue is taking the necessary steps to provide COVID-19 vaccinations within the Town. Fire Rescue has registered with the Florida Department of Health to be a vaccine provider. With the support of our Medical Director, we are in the process of obtaining a memorandum of understanding from the Palm Beach County Department of Health to provide COVID-19 vaccinations.

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 extremely high. The Town, its residents, those who visit here, and those who work here must do their part to limit the transmission of the coronavirus through the use of face-coverings and practicing social distancing until a vaccine is available.