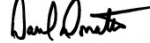




Town of Palm Beach Fire-Rescue



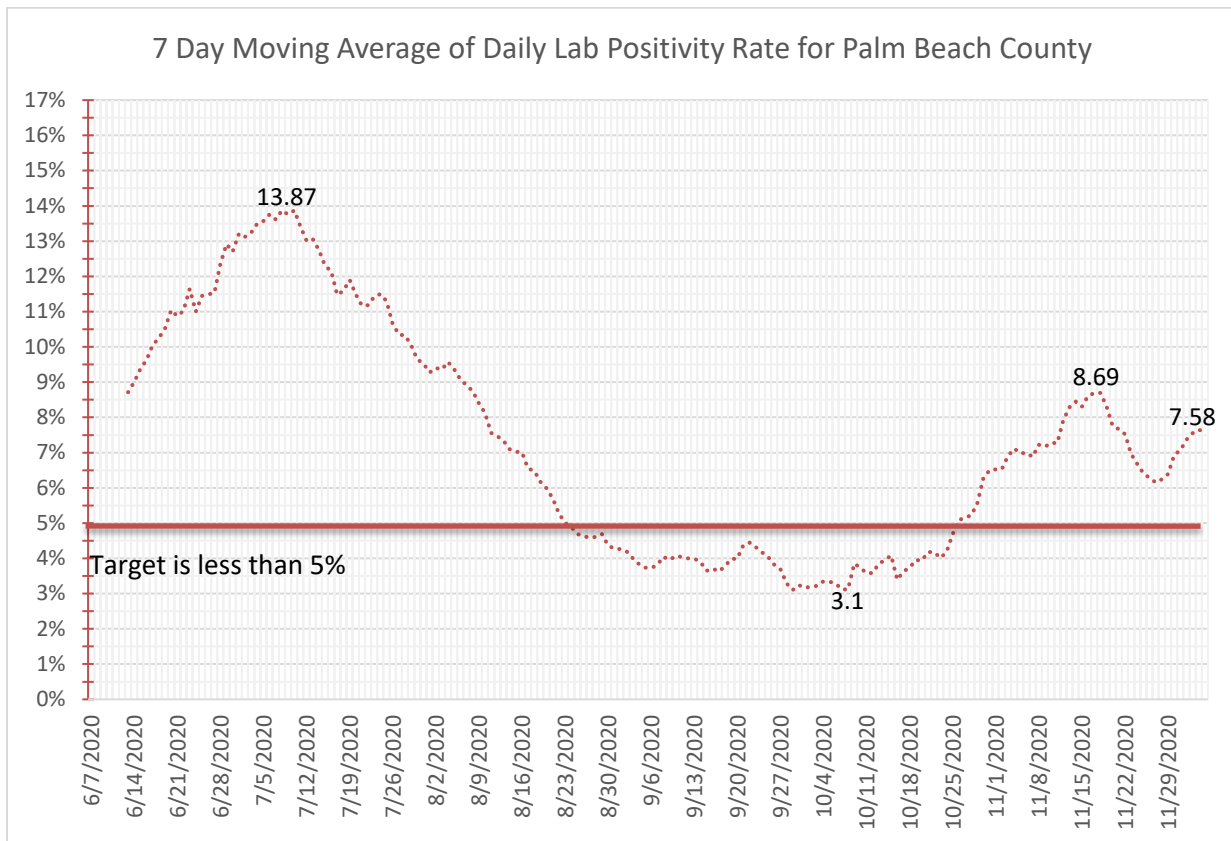
TO: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

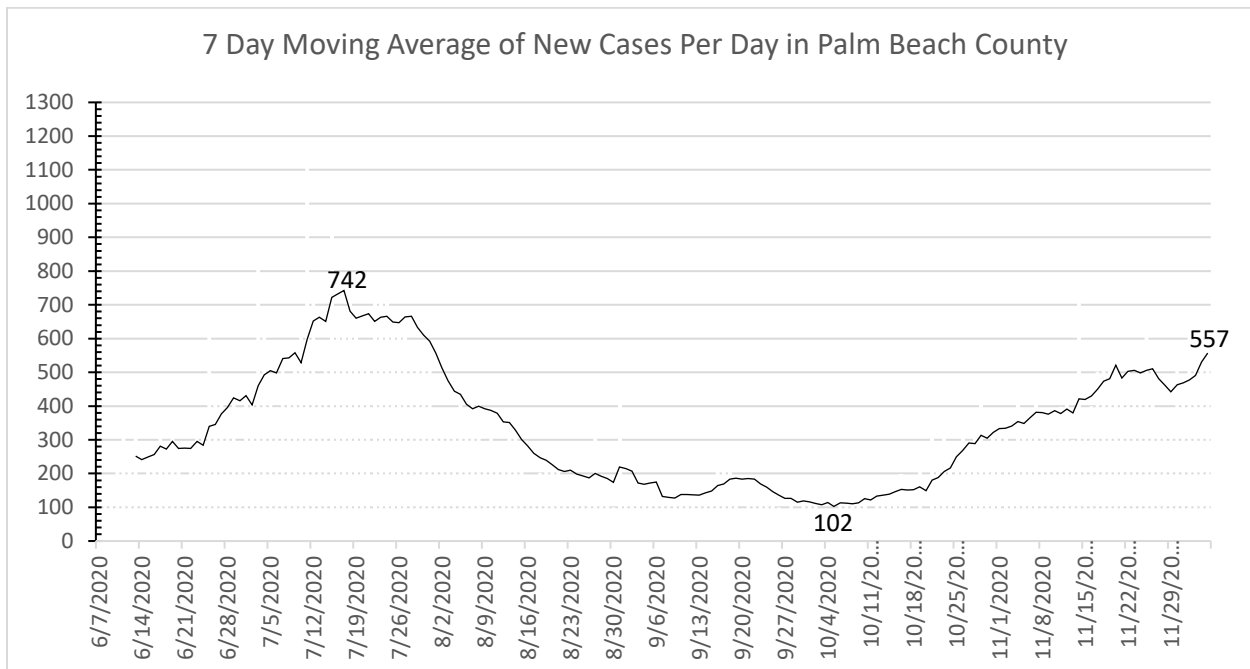
FROM: Darrel Donatto, Fire Rescue Chief 

SUBJECT: December Update on COVID-19 pandemic

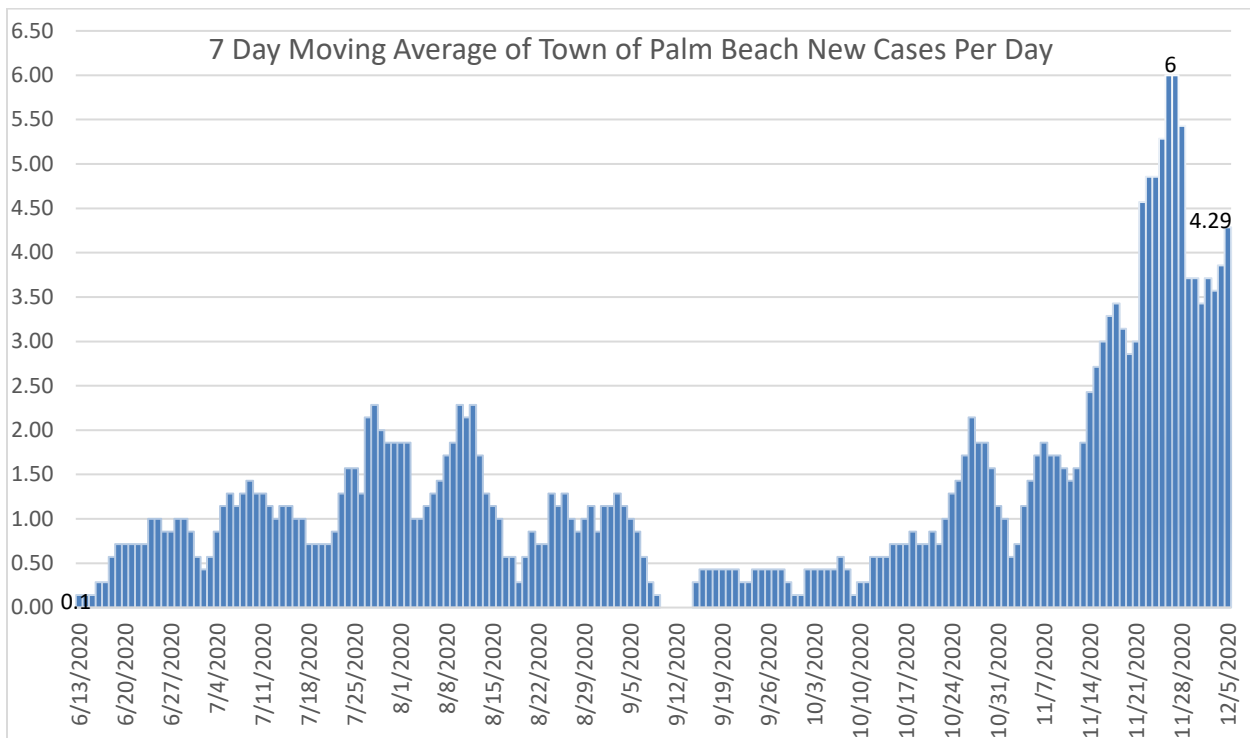
DATE: December 7, 2020

Without question, the number of new cases and the percent of positivity here in Palm Beach County have increased. The current seven-day moving average of the number of new cases per day in Palm Beach County is **557**. At the time of the last Council update in November, the seven-day moving average for new Palm Beach County cases was only 381. The seven-day moving average for the percent of positivity in Palm Beach County is currently **7.58%**. On November 18, 2020, the seven-day average percent of positivity reached 8.69%. The target is to keep this number below 5%.





Likewise, the seven-day average number of new cases per day in the Town has increased. In early October, the seven-day moving average for new cases within the Town was .28 cases per day. In early November, the seven day average of new cases in the Town was 1.86 cases per day. Today, the seven-day moving average of new cases per day in the Town is **4.29**, and just two weeks ago, that number hit a peak of 6. As of December 6th, the Town had **282** cases, which is an increase on **109** cases over the past 30 day period or **63%**.



There has been an increase in the number of people returning to the Town for the season, and with that, there has been an increase in the social gatherings in Town. These things have increased the number of opportunities for people to spread the disease through social interactions. Despite a mandatory mask order in Palm Beach County, people gather in groups without taking facemask precautions. The public needs to limit close contact with others and, most importantly, use a face mask to reduce coronavirus transmission.

The rate of transmission has increased significantly since our lows of September and October. The good news is that while COVID hospitalizations are up slightly, the overall percentage of deaths per COVID infections continues to trend down as new treatments and expanded knowledge of care have become available. However, the risk of death still remains high for the older population.

As previously discussed, the case fatality rate, which is the number of deaths divided by the number of confirmed cases for a particular age group, is higher for older populations. For those over 65 years of age, the average case fatality rate is 18%. For those over 75 years of age, the average case fatality rate is 24%. With an average age of 68 within the Town, Town residents have reason to be concerned about the increase in cases within the Town, the increase in cases within the County, and the increase in positivity within the County.

As of December 6, 2020, there have been a total of **12** COVID-19 deaths involving Town residents and a total of **1,731** COVID-19 deaths within Palm Beach County.

As we discussed last month, Palm Beach Fire Rescue is preparing to provide COVID-19 vaccinations, first to its public safety personnel, and then to residents within the Town. We have completed all of the necessary paperwork and registrations, and we have trained all of our personnel. At this point, we are merely awaiting access to the vaccine.

With a vaccine coming soon, the Town and its residents cannot allow compliance fatigue or complacency to set in. The risk to our residents is extremely high. Until a vaccine becomes available, the Town's residents, those who visit here, and those who work here must all do their part to limit the transmission of the coronavirus through the use of face-coverings, limiting exposures within large groups, and practicing social distancing.