

TOWN OF HARWICH



BOARD OF HEALTH
732 Main Street Harwich, MA 02645
508-430-7509 – Fax 508-430-7531
E-mail: health@town.harwich.ma.us

TOWN OF HARWICH BOARD OF HEALTH
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021 3:00 P.M.
HARWICH TOWN HALL – REMOTE MEETING
WORK SESSION MEETING

As required by law, the Town may audio or video record this meeting. Any person intending to either audio or video record this open session is required to inform the Chair

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Harwich Board of Health is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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- I CALL TO ORDER
II REVIEW THE EXISTING MANDATORY MASK ZONE ORDER- to consider modifying, lifting or keeping in place the existing Declaration of Public Health Emergency Order- mandatory mask zone order adopted by the Board of Health on July 21, 2020, which states that any member of the public utilizing Route 28 between Lower County Road and Bank Street between 9am and 10pm, must wear a face covering at all times over their nose and mouth and must exercise social distancing, whenever possible- Vote to accept/deny/take this under consideration
III OTHER- Vote to accept/deny/take this under consideration
IV ADJOURN- Vote to accept/deny/take under consideration

Authorized posting officer:

Jennifer Clarke
Signature

Date

Posted by: [Signature]
Town Clerk

Date 5-4-21

Per the Attorney General’s Office: The committee may hold an open session for topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting following “New Business.” If you are deaf or hard of hearing or a person with a disability who requires an accommodation, contact the Selectmen’s Office at 508-430-7513



**Town of Harwich  
Board of Health**

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**DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER**

Whereas, the Board of Health is concerned that as summer approaches and visitors return to Harwich the combination of large crowds and narrow roads and sidewalks will make it difficult to maintain social distancing as required by Governor Baker's Face Covering Order, dated May 1, 2020.

Now, therefore, the Board of Health adopts the following Emergency Order:

**Any member of the public utilizing Route 28, between Lower County Road and Bank Street between 9 am and 10 pm, must wear a face covering at all times over their nose and mouth and must exercise social distancing, whenever possible, in accordance with Governor Baker's Order, dated May 1, 2020, effective May 6th, Order Requiring Face Covering in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible.**

Face coverings required by this Order may be removed for the consumption of food and or drink only when the consumer is practicing appropriate social distancing from persons not of their immediate family unit.

Violations of this Order may result in the following enforcement action/fines:

- 1) In the case of a first violation, a written warning shall be issued;
- 2) In the case of a second subsequent violation a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be assessed.
- 3) In the case of a third or subsequent violation a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) shall be assessed.

Each day, or portion thereof, of non-compliance with any provision of this Order shall be deemed a separate violation hereunder.

Non-Criminal Disposition: Violations of any provision of this Order may be enforced by noncriminal disposition, as provided in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D, or by any other lawful means.

Enforcement of this regulation shall be implemented by the Harwich Board of Health or its designated agents, (including Town of Harwich Police Officers).

This Emergency Order shall be effective beginning Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 12:01AM and remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to the Board of Health's judgement that the Order is no longer necessary.

ORDERED on this Day July 21, 2020

HARWICH BOARD OF HEALTH:

Pamela Howell, Chairman  
Sharon Pflieger, Vice Chairman  
Ronald Dowgiallo, Member  
Matt Antoine, Member



**Town of Harwich  
Board of Health**

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April 29, 2021

**WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE**

**CASES & STATISTICS**

To date, Harwich has seen a cumulative total of 746 cases of COVID-19. We are currently following 16 active cases. The positivity rate has dropped to 4.79%, which moves us to the “Yellow” designation. Over the last two weeks the Town has seen 41 positive tests out of total 856 tests.

**VACCINE**

To date, 6,243 of our 12,589 full time residents are fully vaccinated, and 7,855 have received at least one dose.

Age Group	Population Size	Individuals with at least one dose	Fully vaccinated individuals
0-19 Years	1,993	195	50
20-29 Years	1,055	486	240
30-49 Years	2,146	1,413	828
50-64 Years	3,012	2,251	1,515
65-74 Years	2,551	2,202	1,986
75+ Years	1,833	1,824	1,624
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,589</b>	<b>8,381</b>	<b>6,243</b>

A private vaccination clinic was held on Wednesday April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Harwich Community Center. Approximately 80 individuals were vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine. Thank you to Outer Cape Health, Harwich Fire, MRC, CERT, and Jen for all the hard work!

Barnstable County has transitioned to the new, state-run vaccine pre-registration system, called “Color”. In order to get a first-dose vaccine appointment you must pre-register at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/preregister-for-a-covid-19-vaccine-appointment>. Over the coming weeks, vaccine availability at select pharmacy location is also expected to increase substantially.

## **UPDATES**

The Baker-Polito Administration announced on Tuesday that Massachusetts will reopen some outdoor Phase 4, Step 2 industries effective May 10<sup>th</sup> and put plans in place for further reopening on May 29<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Administration continues to take steps to reopen the Commonwealth's economy with public health metrics continuing to trend in a positive direction. This includes drops in average daily COVID cases and hospitalizations. Massachusetts remains first in the nation for first vaccine doses and total doses administered per capita, among states with more than 5 million people. The Administration will also relax the Face Coverings Order for some outdoor settings, effective April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Phase IV, Step 2 Industries and Gathering Changes:**

On March 22, Massachusetts loosened capacity restrictions and advanced to Step 1 of Phase IV of the reopening plan. Since then, case rates dropped by 20%. The positivity rate has dropped to the lowest levels recorded since last summer.

### **Effective Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>:**

Large venues such as indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas and ballparks currently open as part of Phase 4, Step 1 at 12% will be permitted to increase capacity to 25%.

The Commonwealth will reopen some outdoor Phase 4, Step 2 industries including amusement parks, theme parks and outdoor water parks that will be permitted to operate at a 50% capacity after submitting safety plans to the Department of Public Health.

Road races and other large, outdoor organized amateur or professional group athletic events will be permitted to take place with staggered starts after submitting safety plans to a local board of health or the DPH. Youth and adult amateur sports tournaments will be allowed for moderate and high risk sports. Singing will also be permitted indoors with strict distancing requirements at performance venues, restaurants, event venues and other businesses.

### **Effective May 29<sup>th</sup>:**

Subject to public health and vaccination data, gathering limits will increase to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, public settings and private settings.

Subject to public health and vaccination data, additional Phase 4, Step 2 industries will be permitted to open including:

- Street festivals, parades and agricultural festivals, at 50% of their previous capacity and after submitting safety plans to the local board of health.
- Bars, beer gardens, breweries, wineries and distilleries, will be subject to restaurant rules with seated service only, a 90 minute limit and no dance floors.
- Subject to public health and vaccination data, the restaurant guidance will be updated to eliminate the requirement that food be served with alcohol and to increase the maximum table size to 10.

### **Effective August 1<sup>st</sup>:**

Subject to public health and vaccination data, remaining industries will be permitted to

open including:

- Dance clubs, and nightclubs
- Saunas, hot-tubs, steam rooms at fitness centers, health clubs and other facilities
- Indoor water parks
- Ball pits

All industry restrictions will be lifted at that time, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries, with businesses encouraged to continue following best practices. The gathering limit will be rescinded.

Depending on vaccine distribution and public health data, the Administration may consider re-evaluating the August 1<sup>st</sup> date. The Department of Public Health will also continue to issue guidance as needed, including guidance to still require masks indoors.

### **Face Coverings Order:**

Effective April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Face Coverings Order will be relaxed for some outdoor settings.

Face coverings will only be required outside in public when it is not possible to socially distance, and at other times required by sector-specific guidance.

Face coverings will still be required at all times in indoor public places. Face coverings will also continue to be required at all times at events, whether held indoors or outdoors and whether held in a public space or private home, except for when eating or drinking.

At smaller gatherings in private homes, face coverings are recommended but not required. The \$300 fine as an enforcement mechanism will be eliminated.

For more information, visit [mass.gov/reopening](https://mass.gov/reopening).

**\*\*\*\* NOTE: Any member of the public utilizing Route 28, between Lower County Road and Bank Street between 9 am and 10 pm, still must wear a face covering at all times over their nose and mouth and must exercise social distancing, regardless of the Face Covering Order being lifted by the State. This order will remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to the Board of Health's judgment that the Order is no longer necessary.\*\*\*\***

### **Sector Specific Safety Standards:**

As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, many of the Sector Specific Safety Standards have been rescinded. Some of the Standards that have been rescinded are: Golf, Library, and Construction. These sectors would now need to follow the Safety Standards for "Sectors Not Otherwise Addressed" which can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-sectors-not-otherwise-addressed>.

### **TESTING**

For free testing at Outer Cape Health, please call [508-905-2888](tel:508-905-2888) to make an appointment.

Barnstable County offers FREE COVID-19 testing at the Barnstable County Fairgrounds Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and Fridays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Call to make an appointment 774-330-3002 – or take 1 minute and schedule online at <https://bit.ly/3doeaH5>

Testing is still available in other locations 7 days per week through Cape Cod Healthcare. Call the Community Testing Line at [508-534-7103](tel:508-534-7103) to make an appointment.

***REMINDER***

Please continue to maintain social distancing, mask use, and good hand hygiene. We need to work together as a community to minimize the spread!

Stay Safe!

~Dr. O'Neill

*Health Director*

## 4/29/2021: Barnstable County Regional COVID-19 Update

**New Cases:** DPH new cases reported Wednesday:

**Barnstable County:** 20 new cases  
**Martha's Vineyard:** 6 new cases  
**Nantucket:** 9 new cases











**Test Positivity Rates** (14-day average, as of **4/28/21**):

Barnstable County: 3.40% (vs. 4.34%) (**lower** vs. previous fortnight)  
 Dukes County: Pending (vs. 7.24%) (**Pending**)  
 Nantucket County: Pending (vs. 6.69%) (**Pending**)  
 Dukes & Nantucket Counties 6.61% (vs. 7.03%) (**lower**)






A test percent positivity rate below 5% suggests that an outbreak is on the way to **containment**.

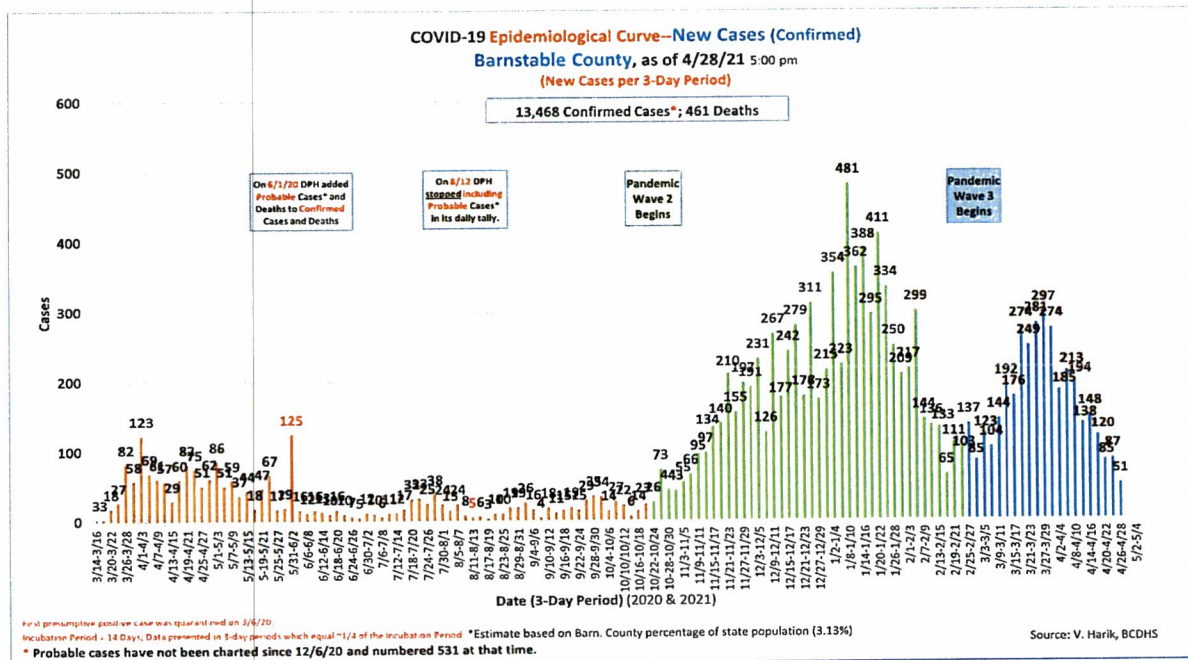
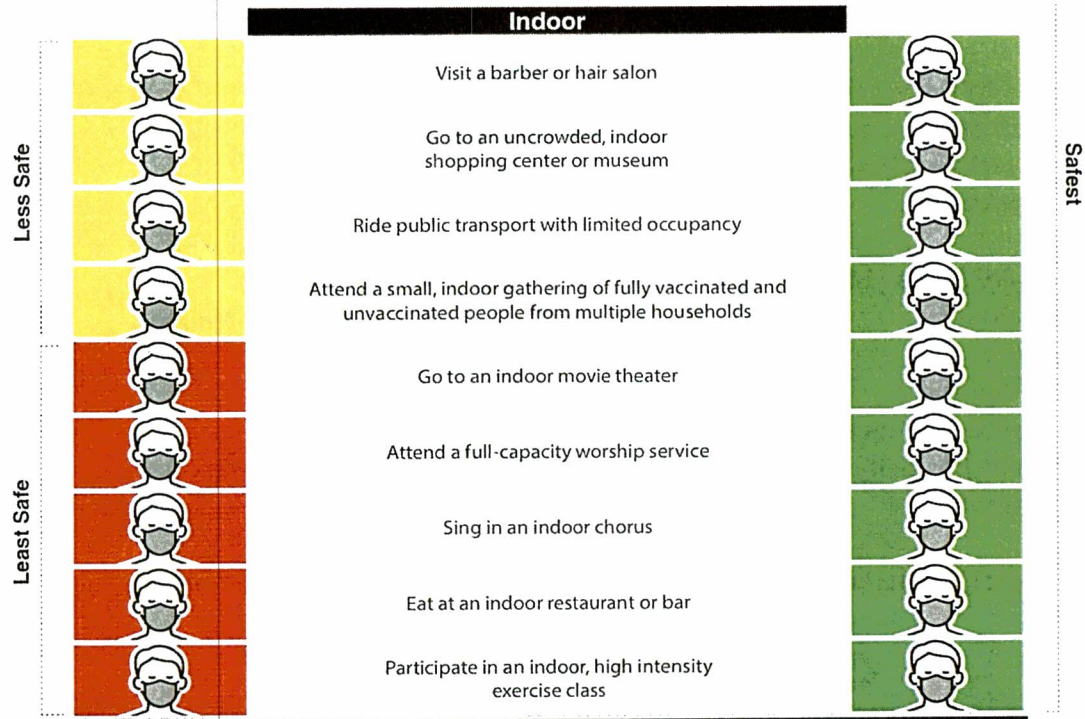
The CDC has released guidance on Safer Activities for Fully Vaccinated Persons:

### Choosing Safer Activities

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
Safest		Outdoor	
			
			
Less Safe			
			

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
Safest	Walk, run, or bike outdoors with members of your household		
	Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends		
Less Safe	Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people		
	Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households		
Least Safe	Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event		

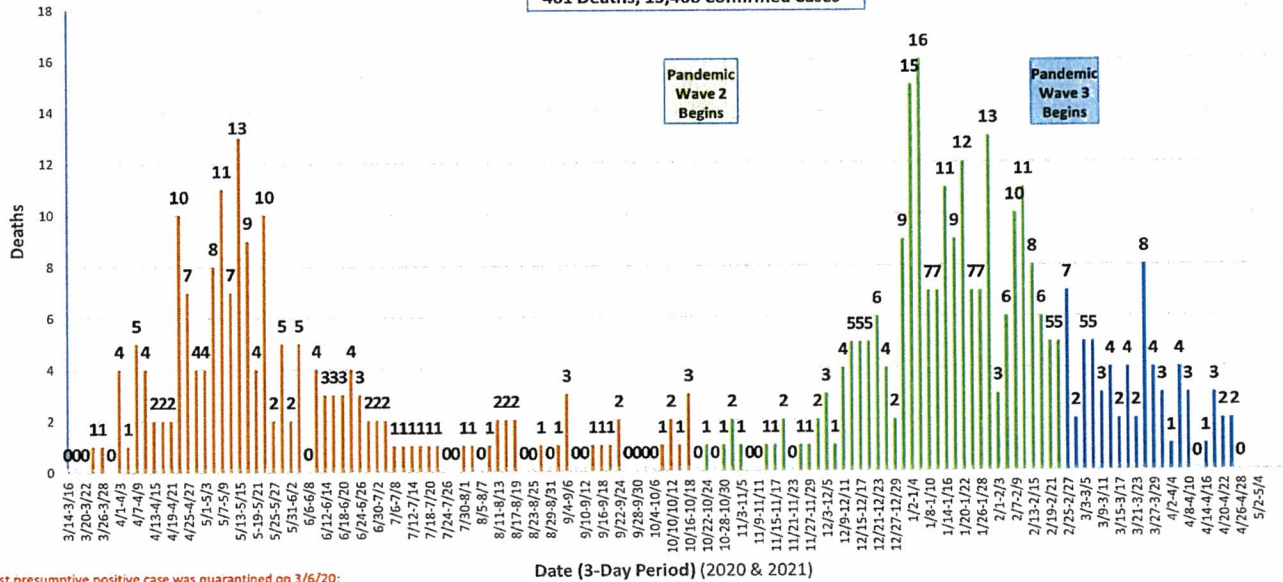


Hospitalizations, Last Report:		Not Cumulative		Cumulative		3-Day Avg. of Persons in Hosp. (Med/Surg + ICU)	ICU Percent of Beds Occupied
		Hospital Beds Occupied (Last Report)	ICU Beds Occupied (Last Report)	Barnstable County Cases (Confirmed)	Barnstable County Deaths		
<b>4/28/2021</b>	Cape Cod Hospital	7	0	<b>13,448</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>17%</b>
(3pm)	Falmouth Hospital	3	2				



**COVID-19 Epidemiological Curve--New Deaths (Confirmed + Probable)**  
**Barnstable County, as of 4/28/21 5:00 pm**  
**(New Deaths per 3-Day Period)**

461 Deaths; 13,468 Confirmed Cases\*



First presumptive positive case was quarantined on 3/6/20;  
 Incubation Period = 14 Days; Data presented in 3-day periods which equal ~1/4 of the Incubation Period  
 \* Probable cases have not been charted since 12/6/20 and numbered 531 at that time. Source: V. Harik, BCDHS; Using data provided by the MA Department of Public Health

<b>Individuals with at Least One Dose Administered by County and Age Group, as of 4/22/21</b>							
Source: Data, MA DPH, 4/22/21; Analysis, V. Harik, Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services							
<b>Barnstable County</b>	<b>0-19 Years</b>	<b>20-29 Years</b>	<b>30-49 Years</b>	<b>50-64 Years</b>	<b>65-74 Years</b>	<b>75+ Years</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total Population by Age Bracket	36,252	22,041	38,725	51,716	38,964	28,931	216,629
Age Bracket % of County Population	17%	10%	18%	24%	18%	13%	
<b>Persons in Age Group with at Least One Dose</b>	<b>2,212</b>	<b>7,817</b>	<b>21,142</b>	<b>36,323</b>	<b>33,486</b>	<b>27,382</b>	<b>128,362</b>
Percent of Age Group with at Least One Dose	6%	35%	55%	70%	86%	95%	59.3%
<b>Persons in Age Group Not Yet Vaccinated.</b>	<b>34,040</b>	<b>14,224</b>	<b>17,583</b>	<b>15,393</b>	<b>5,478</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>88,267</b>
Percent of Age Group Not Yet Vaccinated	94%	65%	45%	30%	14%	5%	40.7%

\* Due to privacy concerns, vaccination figures are suppressed where less than 30 persons are vaccinated.



## Town of Harwich

### Board of Health

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April 23, 2021

### WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE

#### **CASES & STATISTICS**

To date, Harwich has seen a cumulative total of 730 cases of COVID-19. We are currently following 15 active cases. The positivity rate has increased to 6.35%, which leaves us in the “Red” designation. Over the last two weeks, the Town has seen 57 positive tests out of 897 tests ( $57 \div 897 \times 100 = 6.35\%$ ).

With more people getting vaccinated, and the travel order now an advisory, less people are getting tested than previously. This makes our overall test population smaller, which in turn may potentially show a higher percentage rate. Although our case numbers are dropping, so are the number of total tests.

Another measure of disease frequency we can look at is called “Incidence Proportion”, also called “Cumulative Incidence”. Incidence Proportion is the probability of developing disease over a specific period of time, and is used to estimate risk. For example, the two week Incidence Proportion for Harwich is 0.45%. That can be interpreted to mean that in Harwich, over the past two weeks, the probability, or estimated risk, of contracting COVID-19 was 0.45%. We can then compare these numbers to other towns or cities, as shown below, to determine if we have a higher probability of developing COVID-19. Massachusetts as a whole showed that over the past two week time period, the estimated risk of developing COVID-19 was 0.56%. We need to look at multiple measures of disease frequency in order to see the bigger picture. Just because we have a low risk, does not mean that we can minimize protective measures such as mask use and social distancing.

#### **Harwich**

Incidence Proportion (4/16- 4/22) = 15 new cases  $\div$  12,589 population  $\times$  100 = **0.12%**

Incidence Proportion (4/9-4/22) = 57 new cases  $\div$  12,589 population  $\times$  100 = **0.45%**

**Brewster** (4/9-4/22) = 37 new cases  $\div$  9,926 population  $\times$  100 = **0.37%**

**Chatham** (4/9-4/22) = 8 new cases  $\div$  5,830 population  $\times$  100 = **0.14%**

**Dennis** (4/9-4/22) = 58 new cases  $\div$  13,088 population  $\times$  100 = **0.44%**

**Edgartown** (4/9-4/22) = 57 new cases  $\div$  4,086 population  $\times$  100 = **1.40%**

**Oak Bluffs** (4/9-4/22) = 48 new cases  $\div$  5,209 population  $\times$  100 = **0.92%**

**Tisbury** (4/9-4/22) = 42 new cases  $\div$  4,174 population  $\times$  100 = **1.01%**

**Nantucket** (4/9-4/22) = 82 new cases  $\div$  11,416 population  $\times$  100 = **0.72%**

**Massachusetts** (4/9-4/22) = 705,239  $\div$  125,358,885  $\times$  100 = **0.56%**

#### **VACCINE**

COVID-19 UPDATE APRIL 23, 2021

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To date, 5,567 full time residents are fully vaccinated, and 7,855 full time residents have received at least one dose.

Age Group	Population Size	Individuals with at least one dose	Fully vaccinated individuals
0-19 Years	1,993	126	32
20-29 Years	1,055	391	181
30-49 Years	2,146	1,259	643
50-64 Years	3,012	2,105	1,204
65-74 Years	2,551	2,169	1,902
75+ Years	1,833	1,805	1,605
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,589</b>	<b>7,855</b>	<b>5,567</b>

A private vaccination clinic has been re-scheduled for Wednesday April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Harwich Community Center. Outer Cape Health was able to obtain the Moderna vaccine for the clinic. We have 131 individuals scheduled from 8 AM to 1 PM. Harwich EMS will be administer the vaccines. This is a closed clinic, and is scheduled by appointment only.

Barnstable County is transitioning to the new, state-run vaccine pre-registration system, called “Color”. In order to get a first-dose vaccine appointment you must pre-register at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/preregister-for-a-covid-19-vaccine-appointment>. Over the coming weeks, vaccine availability at select pharmacy location is also expected to increase substantially.

**TESTING**

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**REMINDER**

Please continue to maintain social distancing, mask use, and good hand hygiene. We need to work together as a community to minimize the spread!

Stay Safe!  
 ~Dr. O’Neill  
 Health Director

# 4/23/2021: Barnstable County Regional COVID-19 Update

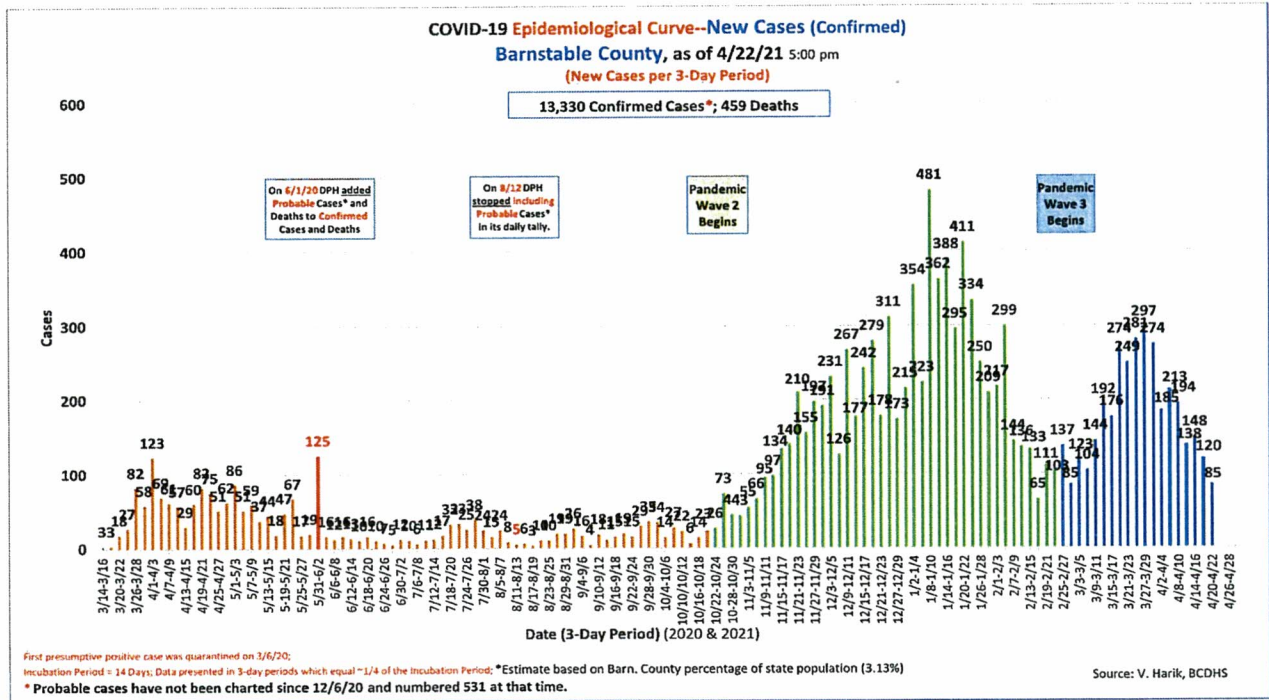
**New Cases:** DPH confirmed cases reported yesterday:

- Barnstable County:** 39 new cases;
- Martha's Vineyard:** 15 new cases;
- Nantucket:** 15 new cases;

**Test Positivity Rates** (14-day average, as of **4/21/21**):

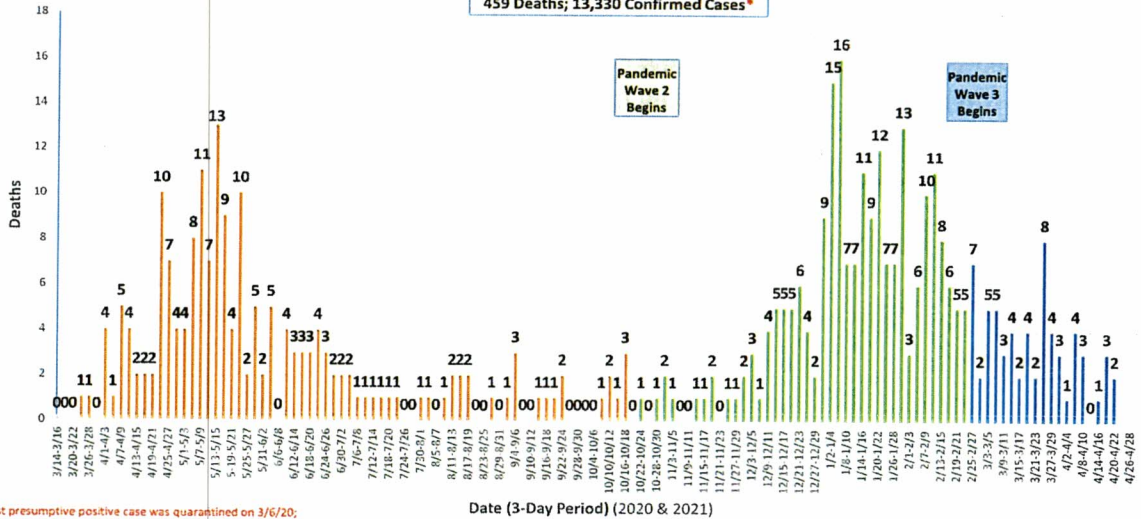
- Barnstable County: **4.34%** (vs. 5.14%) (**lower** vs. previous fortnight)
- Dukes & Nantucket Counties: **7.03%** (vs. 8.31%) (**lower**)

A test percent positivity rate below 5% suggests that an outbreak is on the way to **containment**.



**COVID-19 Epidemiological Curve--New Deaths (Confirmed + Probable)**  
**Barnstable County, as of 4/22/21 5:00 pm**  
**(New Deaths per 3-Day Period)**

459 Deaths; 13,330 Confirmed Cases\*



First presumptive positive case was quarantined on 3/6/20;

Incubation Period = 14 Days; Data presented in 3-day periods which equal ~1/4 of the Incubation Period

\* Probable cases have not been charted since 12/6/20 and numbered 531 at that time.

Source: V. Harik, BCDHS; Using data provided by the MA Department of Public Health