

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen – Mon., January 19, 2021

COVID Testing at Miles River Middle School – COVID testing clinic at the Miles River Middle School with the help of Beauport Ambulance, However, resources to provide this testing are beginning to run low and we are concerned that residents without symptoms are taking advantage of this test to be able to travel and avoid the expense of private testing. **We are asking all residents who want to test for personal reasons to take advantage of the self-pay option, at a cost of just \$85 per person, so that tests for those who are symptomatic or have been notified they are a close contact will be available for those who need them.** Continued use of the town testing site by those who are not symptomatic, MAY result in the closure of this testing site, due to a lack of funding.

Contact Tracing – We also would like to remind residents that local contact **tracers need to make contact with all local residents who have either tested positive** or have been identified as a close contact to a positive.

We have had some disturbing reports recently that some residents who have been received positive tests are not being cooperative with the Contact Tracing workers. These folks are working long hours in a difficult environment to try and keep as many people safe as possible. We ask that if you are contacted by a tracing nurse or tracing assistant, that you remember these folks are doing their jobs to keep the community safe. Please be courteous and take time to listen to the advice they are providing you. All contact tracers working for the town are following state and federal guidelines for effective contact tracing.

The Board of Health is authorized under state law to work with the local Police to force compliance on this matter, if needed.

Vaccinations – The Town of Hamilton Board of Health, Fire Department and Medical Reserve Corps have been working with their counterparts from Topsfield, Wenham, Middleton and Boxford on distributing the first local vaccinations to first responders in our communities at the Topsfield Fairgrounds and they will be looking to continue that collaboration as more vaccines is made available to other high risk categories of residents. Please be aware that we will be sharing information, as it becomes available, through the town website and social media accounts for groups including those over 65, residents with compromised immune systems and more.

Information about Compost program – Reminder to all residents about the changes coming to the curbside trash collection program. For details to the changes and effective dates, please visit the town website at www.hamiltonma.gov for information about how and when the program will begin to be rolled out, as well as forms and information about how to make sure you have the bins and materials you need to comply.

Public Works has already begun distributing new green bins for those who need them and has received several applications for exemptions stickers.

Improving town communications – Some folks may have seen the sort video we produced last week about CCOVID-19 and the need to remain vigilant in our current environment.

This type of community outreach will be part of a new strategy that the town hopes to be rolling out over the next few weeks to see if we can improve how and what we communicate to our residents about town business, programs and other matters that may be of interest.

We are undertaking some changes to improve the weekly e-newsletter that is generated by the website and we will be expanding our use of the website and social media to try and attract more viewers and visitors.

Please let us know how we are doing and by all means sign up for the town e-newsletter and other resources such as our FlashVote tool.