



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** John C. Curran, Town Manager

**CC:** Cathy O'Dea, Clancy Main

**SUBJECT:** Town Manager's Report, February 22, 2021

**DATE:** February 19, 2021

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### **Vaccinations**

The Town has administered 200 vaccines to date and we are scheduled to administer 100 more on Monday. The availability of supply is very low. The Governor has announced that he will not be giving vaccine to local Boards of Health anymore. The only foreseeable vaccine we will receive are the second doses. I have attached the letter coming from the Board to the delegation and the Governor.

### **Budget Process**

The budget will be presented to the Board at the February 22<sup>nd</sup>, meeting. A public hearing will also be held to hear any comments on any portion of the budget that includes reorganization. The Budget will be presented to Finance Committee on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **PHR**

The Peggy Hannon Rizza Article will be presented to the CPC Committee on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Capital Facilities Committee**

The RFP is on the street and they are due in early March. Two candidates will be brought back to the full committee in late March. The Committee reviewed reports already done by Housing, Recreation and COA.

### **Veterans Department**

The Veterans Department has been working hard to accomplish many of their goals. They have been focused on two new initiatives over the past few months. One of the goals has been establishing a relationship with Billerica HS Seniors who have already committed to military after graduation. This provides an opportunity for the Veterans' Department to collect these students info and host a gathering that provides information to our future Veterans. This frontloads the information to these young students to know that when they do come home, we are here to support them with whatever they need. The Veterans Department can then be a liaison for these students throughout their service contract in cases of emergency where the family here at home needs to reach the Service Member. We can then help guide and provide any aid needed to address the situation. This could be done by using the Red Cross Messaging System or even a call to the Unit Command where warranted. When these

students come home as Veterans, they there should be no questions as to who to call for services. The Billerica Veterans Department has also been exploring fundraising events to be held at VVP. These future fundraisers could help fund capital projects, scholarships, and events like wreaths across America.

### **Recreation Department**

With spring on the horizon, the Recreation Department has been working closely with each of the Youth Sports Organizations, Athletic Department, and Parks Department to ensure user groups are able to take the field safely this spring. Permits for the spring season have begun being processed through the Recreation Department, and weather permitting, the goal is to allow fields to open as early as April 1. The Recreation Department continues to work with youth groups to ensure all state Covid-19 guidelines are being followed.

In addition to getting ready for the spring, the Recreation Department will also be rolling out a second phase of virtual winter programs. Registration has opened for recently added e-league, fitness, and other programs. Please check out our facebook for more information and registration!

### **COA Update**

**Community Partnerships:** Enterprise Bank continues to be a GREAT community partner. Our Meals on Wheels (MOW) Program is led by Elder Services of Merrimack Valley, (ESMV). Marie Tremblay, Branch Relationship Manager and Karisa Janina Ajanel Branch Service Manager, Enterprise Bank delivered close to 100 hand-made Valentine cards produced by bank Staff to go out to the home bound, through the MOW program.

**AARP Tax Aide Program:** we have designed a safe process and have already received over 350 requests for tax appointments for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; 12 appointments per day. Four tax preparers began on Feb 16th.

**Health Series with Lahey:** Health experts work with the BCOA and BATV to create programming that appeals to the Billerica public, especially older adults. The topic of Diabetes has been completed with heart disease to follow.

**Vaccinations:** Staff has been caringly fielding calls from patrons and other seniors, lonely, anxious, frustrated and scared while awaiting their vaccination. We have provided a voice of confidence and calm reinforcing to them that no windows are closing but that the town is face supply limitations. Working with the BOH our vans are about to take seniors to the Bedford VA and the new Mass Vaccination Site at 1001 Pawtucket Boulevard, Lowell, starting with about 32 seniors per week.

**Our Focus: aligns well:** A recent community assessment by Elder Services of Merrimack Valley identified the top issues in the region facing seniors as 1) basic homecare, 2) general mobility, 3) accessing benefits and 4) mental health. These areas are core to our work and growth.

**Still addressing food insecurity:** With a bi-monthly drive-through, 1-hour program for 80+ seniors, distributing 2 bags of perishables and non-perishables to each car that came in bulk from the School system and Food Link and gets assembled by 3-4 volunteers and 2 staff. We began with a weekly distribution in April 2020. We complement the schedule of the Billerica Community Pantry.

## Town Meeting

The Town Clerk alerted this office last week that over a third of Town Meeting members who were up had not taken out or returned their papers. The Town Clerk has sent mail, emails, and placed a post on social media. I'll have a further update at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday.

## COVID 19 Update

The Town has been lowered to the moderate risk category (yellow). The seven day average dropped from 4.29 to 2.71. The Town is trending in the right direction and is consistent with the State and the county.

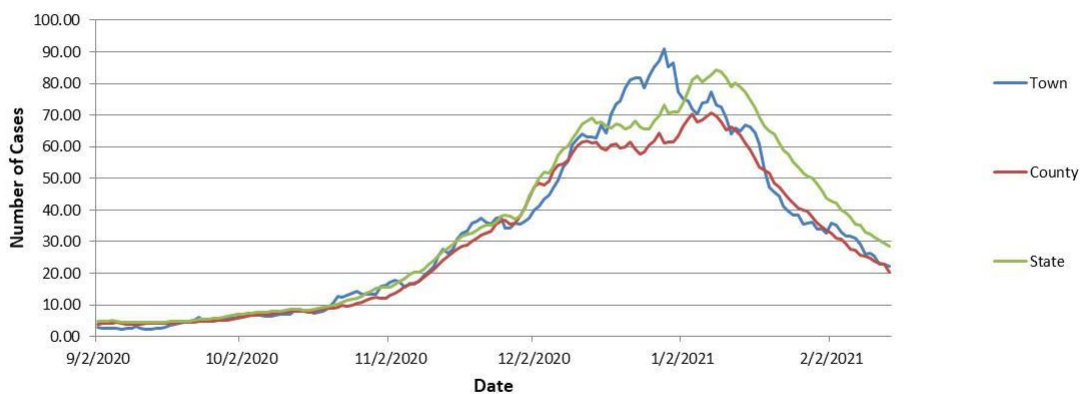


Long Term Care Facilities	118
Middlesex House of Corrections	76
Health Care Workers	114
Apartment Complexes	233
Deaths	34
Active Cases	94
Recovered Cases	2918
Total Cases to Date	3046
Cases per 100,000	11.99
Seven Day Case Average	2.71
Number of Cases last 14 days	73
Positivity Rate	3.58
Billerica Status	

Friday, February 19, 2021

Source: Billerica Board of Health

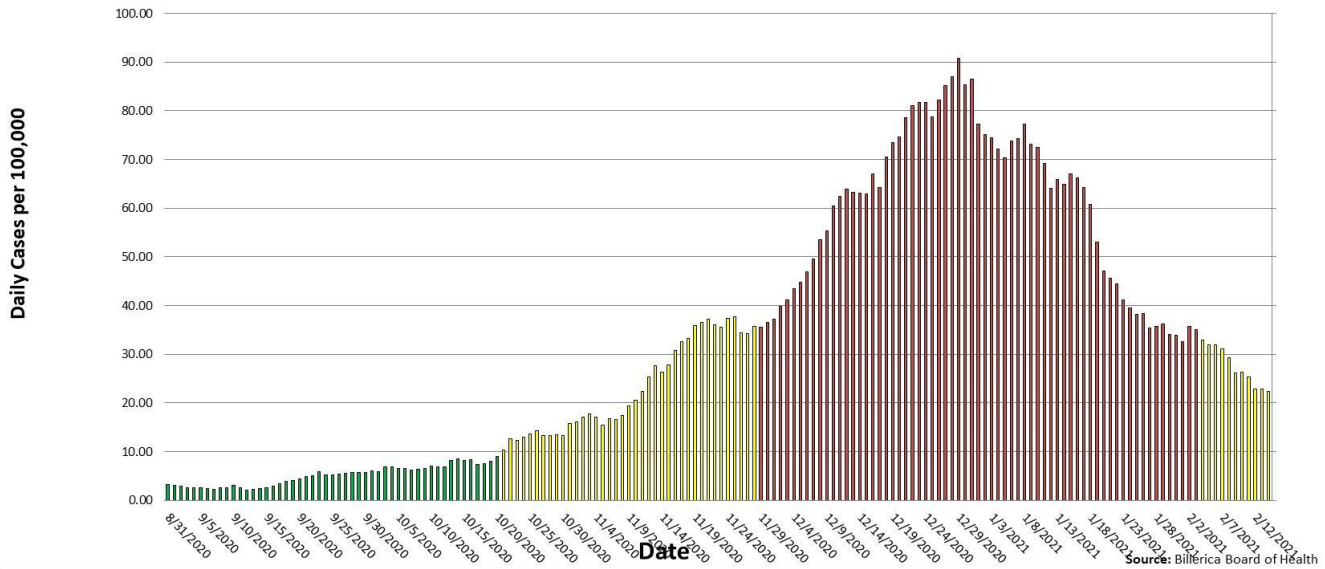
**Billerica vs. County and Commonwealth**  
**Average Cases per 100,000 people over 7 days**



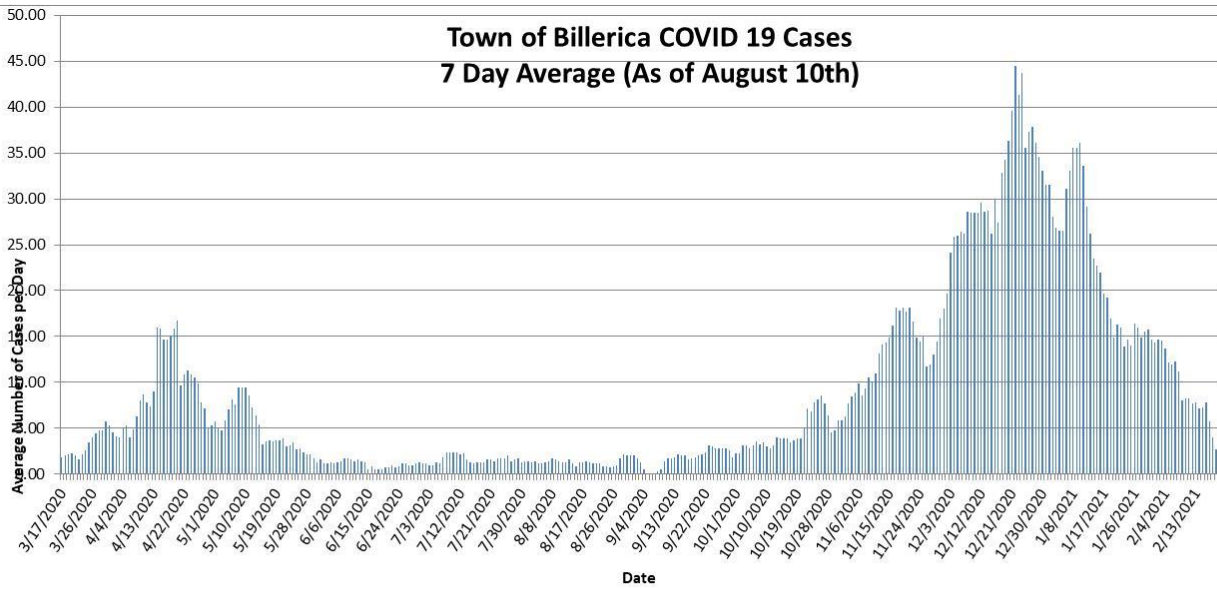
Source: Billerica Board of Health

**Town of Billerica  
Average Daily Cases per 100,000 People**

Less than 10 cases per 100k per day = Green  
Greater than 10 cases per 100k per day and less than or equal to 5% positivity testing rate = Yellow  
Billerica's positivity rate is 4.67



**Town of Billerica COVID 19 Cases  
7 Day Average (As of August 10th)**



Source: Billerica Board of Health