



TOWN OF DOUGLAS

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Public Notice #22
2020 Coronavirus Response

December 29, 2020 10:00 AM

As of late yesterday, there are now thirty-two (32) active COVID-19 cases in Douglas. Based on the correlation between the likelihood of people gathering and the likelihood of increases in COVID-19 cases, the Christmas and New Year holidays quite probably will result in a substantial increase in reported cases through the middle to end of January. If this scenario happens, it will be more important than at any point previous in the pandemic to wear a mask, maintain physical distance from others, and practice good hand hygiene in order to minimize further community spread of the virus.

With this scenario in mind, the Fire and Ambulance Department will continue to staff the Town's second ambulance through the end of January. This move has allowed the Department to maintain quality of service, especially response time. While one ambulance is disinfected, the other is still available for calls, reducing dependence on mutual aid or rushing the first ambulance back into service before ready.

Also, the Municipal Center, Fire Station and Highway Barn will remain closed to the public, except when special circumstances require a person to be physically in the building, and then, only by appointment. Permit applications, bill payments and other correspondence have all been processed without interruption by various Town departments via traditional mail, the oversized drop box at the Municipal Center, and electronically. These practices will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

A large percentage of the population needs to acquire immunity before the pandemic will end and the economy restored to a more typical pattern. The primary means will be through vaccination. Federal and state websites, especially the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website, contain the most up-to-date information on vaccine options and their distribution in the months to come.

While there currently is no plan for the Town to participate in the administration of vaccine(s) to the general public, we regularly communicate with State officials on their vaccination efforts and remain open to being a local partner if called upon to do so.