



May 5, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Response Reporting

To All Town Residents,

On March 25, 2020, the Town notified all residents of the first positive case of Coronavirus within the Town of West Bridgewater. Since then, the Town has provided periodic updates for two reasons; to keep our residents informed and because the State Department of Public Health (DPH) initially stated they would not be releasing the number of cases per municipality to the public.

On April 15, 2020, DPH began reporting number of cases to the public. Unfortunately, the number of cases DPH released have never matched the number of cases the Town has released. As Town Administrator and Health Agent, we were both troubled by this.


In speaking with DPH, they report their number of cases based on a database which tracks confirmed cases by zip code. The Town receives its data through the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN), which is a web-based disease surveillance and case management system, managed by DPH, which tracks by residential address. We have determined that the Life Care Center, A Long Term Care Facility located on West Center Street, is counted in DPH's database because it triggers its zip code algorithm but is not captured in MAVEN because those living there are not recognized by MAVEN as residents of West Bridgewater.

MAVEN does not recognize residents of Life Care as West Bridgewater residents because Life Care is under the direct supervision of DPH. Any/all positive cases within the facility are administered and overseen by their own Infectious Disease Nurses. As the Health Agent of the Town, I am in contact with the Director of the infectious disease division, but I do not oversee Life Care nor am I responsible for it. Therefore, the number of cases that are updated on the Town's website reflects those cases that I am directly privy to and am responsible for administering.

In addition to the Town's website, you can access the State's information through it's website at: www.mass.gov/covid19 which has the latest news, case counts and laboratory testing results. The website is updated daily. You may also call 2-1-1 with any questions. Additionally, you can also text the keyword: **COVIDMA to 888-777** to receive notifications to your cell phone. Thank you.

Sincerely,


David L. Gagne
Town Administrator


Robert W Casper Jr
Health Agent