

**Administrator's Report**  
**Board of Health Meeting of January 13, 2022**

*Report covers from 12/10/21 – 01/13/2022*

*Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk (\*)*

**A. Inspection Report Reviews**

(1) 21 Story Street, Dewitt, Map 129, Lot 45\*

I have reviewed to the report for the official Title 5 inspection that was conducted by Jonathan Granz and dated December 7, 2021. The inspector has noted that the system is functioning properly and passes the Title 5 inspection.

*Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the report for the Title 5 septic system inspection serving this property, conducted by Jonathan Granz and dated December 7, 2021, is approved. This septic system is designed to accommodate a maximum of 4 bedrooms (or 440 gallons per day) and is not designed to accommodate the use of a garbage grinder.*

**B. FY23 Budget\***

The FY23 budget was submitted to you as level-funded, with no requested increases. As previously mentioned, we would like to increase our Public Health Nurse salary to be more comparable to other PHNs in the area. However, due to a previously budgeted increase in hours, we are able to provide a 10.77% increase (from \$36.11/hour to \$40/hour) for FY23 without an increase in the personnel line. However, in order for this to take effect in July, the Personnel Board would have to amend the job description. This request has been submitted to the Town Administrator/Personnel Manager.

*Recommendation: Discussion, and vote to submit a level-funded budget request.*

**C. COVID-19 & Other Updates**

(1) Vaccine updates

1072 adult vaccines administered, which includes primary and booster doses. We will continue to run weekly adult (12+) clinics on Thursdays at Town Hall for the near future. 170 pediatric vaccines administered (for the 5 to <12 age group). We will continue to run pediatric Pfizer clinics on a 3-week cycle, starting 1/21/22, at the Public Safety Building.

In addition, our vaccine coalition (GCACC, Greater Cape Ann Community Collaborative) offers both pediatric and adult covid vaccines at multiple standing and pop-up locations on the North Shore. To date, we have administered over 13,000 doses over the past 7 months!

(2) BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Testing

We continue to offer rapid Antigen tests to town employees using the BinaxNOW test kits provided by DPH. All results are reported to DPH as required, and symptomatic individuals are still recommended to obtain a PCR test, even if the Ag is negative.

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(3) Possible testing site in Essex\*

We have been contacted by a private company called RN Wellness, offering to set up a testing site in town. This would be offered at no direct cost to us, as other covid-related services are. There appears to still be a significant need for tests, based on the number of calls/requests we're getting, both from town employees and from the general public. However, there are indirect costs, such as a necessary police detail for traffic and disruption to daily activities.

*Recommendation: Discussion of a possible location for a testing site, as well as any indirect costs related to this one-time or ongoing service.*

Community	Pos. rate 1/13*	Pos. rate 1/6*	Mask Mandate?	Vax Rate (overall)
Essex	16.38%	15.33%	Yes, indoor public places	76%
Gloucester	20.67%	15.39%	Yes, indoor public places, certain exceptions	79%
Manchester	16.43%	12.4%	Yes, indoor public places	87%
Rockport	11.32%	8.88%	Yes, indoor public places	87%
Beverly	18.36%	11.68%	Yes, indoor public places	75%
Hamilton	13.27%	11.76%	Yes, indoor public places	85%
Ipswich	13.99%	10.96%	Recommendation only	83%
Salem	22.71%	15.14%	Yes, & proof of vax eff. 1/15/22	70%

\*Positivity rate is calculated using molecular (PCR) tests only, and is calculated by dividing the number of positive tests by the total number of tests conducted during the time period.

**Essex Case Counts**

October 2021: 10  
 November 2021: 55  
 December 2021: 116  
 January 2022: 37 confirmed (PCR+), 8 probable (Ag+)  
 (to date)