



# TOWN OF FALMOUTH

Office of the Town Manager & Selectmen

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## PRESS RELEASE

**Subject: Falmouth Beach Department**

**July 29, 2020**

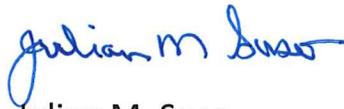
We understand that there was a non-working-hours social gathering involving several Town of Falmouth lifeguards on Tuesday, July 21. At approximately 5:30PM on Friday, July 24 one Falmouth lifeguard self-reported a COVID-19 positive rapid test result to Beach Department supervisors. This lifeguard was removed from working status and recommended to quarantine. That same evening the lifeguard communicated the positive test result through social media to coworkers. I am advised that a Beach Department supervisor asked the lifeguard who had tested positive not to communicate the test result to fellow staff members via social media to allow the Acting Beach Superintendent to ensure that this positive exposure was uniformly communicated to all Beach Department staff members. By 9:50PM Friday evening, Acting Beach Superintendent Maggie Clayton sent a notification to all Beach Department staff through the Beach supervisors, advising them that a lifeguard had tested positive and that a few others were self-quarantining after possible exposure. (A copy of this notification is attached).

On Saturday, July 25 several additional lifeguards as well as a few parking attendants visited a "rapid-testing" center in Dennis and secured a coronavirus test at that facility. By end of day Saturday, Beach management had received verbal self-reports from three additional lifeguards that had tested positive. On Sunday, July 26 two additional lifeguards confirmed a positive test, followed by two further lifeguards on Monday. A total of eight Falmouth lifeguards self-reported a positive coronavirus test by the end of workday on Monday, July 27. All lifeguards who reported a positive test were removed from working status immediately; in addition, any municipal employee siblings of those who reported a positive test were also removed from working status. During this same time, thirty-three (33) Beach staff members self-reported a negative test result.

Working with Cape Cod Healthcare, the Falmouth Health Department, the Barnstable County Health Department and the Falmouth Fire Department, the Town has arranged for all Falmouth Beach staff members to receive a free PCR

coronavirus test. This testing is occurring this week at both Falmouth Hospital and Cape Cod Hospital in Hyannis, with results to be forthcoming. We are encouraging all Falmouth Beach staff members to test or re-test as part of this process.

After self-reporting, no Beach Department staff members that tested positive for COVID-19 have been or are working. The Town continues to follow all isolation, quarantine, social distancing and sanitizing protocols at Beach Department worksites throughout the working day. Given the loss of lifeguards to the mandatory quarantine process, the Town is operating at a reduced staff capacity at some of the Town beaches for the foreseeable future. Monitoring and oversight of beach parking areas continues with a full staff of parking attendants. Parking sticker sales are operating routinely with a full staff of clerks at the Ellen T. Mitchell Bathhouse.



Julian M. Suso  
Falmouth, MA Town Manager

**From:** Maggie Clayton

**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 9:53 PM

**To:** [falmouthbeachesclerks@gmail.com](mailto:falmouthbeachesclerks@gmail.com); falmouth beaches supervisors  
<[falmouthbeachessupervisors@gmail.com](mailto:falmouthbeachessupervisors@gmail.com)>; PA Supervisor... Mariana  
<[falmouthpasupervisors@gmail.com](mailto:falmouthpasupervisors@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Please send this message to your employee list-serves (subj. A message from the superintendent)

Hello, everyone:

Though our season seems to have days like any other summer, where we sell beach stickers, wave people in the lot, and whistle people off the rocks, this year is unique in that we are living and working during a pandemic.

In the past 24 hrs., COVID-19 has hit close to home with our staff. With increased testing and a resurgence of the virus, we have a few employees who are quarantining after possible exposure to people in their circles who have tested positive and another employee who is a positive case themselves. These employees have all been upfront and honest about their individual situations with Senior Staff, which we appreciate as we can only make decisions based on the information presented to us.

Our many precautions (wearing masks when within 6 ft. of one another, building additional lifeguard chairs, holding roll call outside, etc.) have put us in a good place to withstand these staffing setbacks. After consulting with Scott McGann, Town Health Agent, no one on staff requires additional testing at this time. Everyone should report to work as usual, unless told otherwise by the Health Department or VNA as they complete contact tracing for positive Falmouth cases.

The safety of residents and visitors of Falmouth is the core of the mission of the Beach Dept. We can only uphold this mission if we keep ourselves and each other healthy, and show up to work ready to do our jobs each day. Tomorrow is Saturday, July 28th. We have a responsibility to the town through Labor Day, September 7th. In the coming weeks, please make good choices for yourself and those you live with. This means frequently washing your hands, wearing a mask when within 6' of someone you don't live with for more than 15 mins., and doing things to support your immune system like getting enough sleep and eating a balanced diet with enough protein and vitamins.

I'm confident that we will get through this trying time together. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions/concerns.