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*** * * FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 18, 2020 * * ***

Provincetown Health Department and Board of Health Urge Caution as Second Surge of COVID-19 Cases Hit Massachusetts

(Provincetown, Ma) – With the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the midst of a second surge of COVID-19 cases, Provincetown’s Board of Health and Department of Health urge caution and offer guidance to help residents take care of themselves and their families as the holiday season approaches.

According to public health data, Massachusetts positive cases are up by 278% and hospitalizations are up by 145% since Labor Day. In addition, state officials note that many clusters of cases are coming from within households or at private gatherings. Although there are currently no positive cases in Provincetown, the latest results of the town’s wastewater system reveal an upward trend which indicates the virus is present in our community.

“Although our known COVID-19 case numbers are low, the wastewater test results indicate that some people in town are carrying the virus. We ask that everyone be especially cautious during this second surge by doing what they can to prevent further spread in our community,” said Dr. Susan Troyan, Vice Chair of the Board of Health. “It is also important to note that those who had COVID-19 in the past may not be immune from getting it again as immunity can decrease over time. We recommend everyone keep their guard up.”

To mitigate further cases and prevent the spread of COVID-19 the Board of Health and the Health Director recommend the following:

- Everyone who can work from home, should do so.
- Wear masks – masks limit the ability of the virus to spread. When indoors, wear a mask at a gathering when you are not eating or drinking.
- Do not gather with people other than those you live with or those in a very small bubble with you.

“The path of this virus in our community is up to us, as individuals and as a community. Therefore, how we as individuals define risk and go about managing it impacts our neighbors. While I can certainly understand wanting to see friends and family over the holidays, my plea to everyone is: if you choose to attend a gathering over the holidays with those outside your household or bubble, please quarantine from others for two weeks after. That’s the best way we can keep co-workers and our community’s most vulnerable safe,” says Health Director Morgan Clark.

Thanksgiving recommendations:

- All indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people.
- Celebrate Thanksgiving with your household or bubble members, only.
- Remember that the elderly are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 virus.
- Travel Restrictions remain in place for all states except for Hawaii, Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. The lower-risk map of states is updated regularly, check the state’s website before you travel.

- If you travel to a higher-risk state, you must quarantine for 14 days upon return to Massachusetts or get a negative result from a molecular PCR COVID-19 test within 72 hours before returning to the state.
- Travel restrictions also apply to college students who study out-of-state and are returning for the holidays.