For Immediate Release Contact:

May 15, 2020 Heather B. Harper

 Assistant Town Manager

8:10 **PM** 508-888-5144

Town of Sandwich, MA- COVID 19 Command Team is cautiously optimistic about the May 19, 2020 Election Day. Town Clerk, Taylor White has taken great care to plan and run the safest possible Annual Town and Special State on May 19, 2020. The following measures have been established to ensure the safety of our election workers and the voting public:

* Health screening for election workers – health & temperature check, voluntary serology testing
* PPE supplied to poll workers to include face masks and gloves
* Public Safety detail officers will wear either surgical mask or N95 masks and gloves
* All polling places will have doors and windows open for air movement
* Social distancing markings and barriers installed to guide voters
* Election workers will be trained in hygiene, sanitation and social distancing procedures
* Hand Sanitizer provided upon entrance and exit
* Facilities staff will routinely sanitize polling locations and booths
* Plexi-glass barriers will be placed on tables to separate poll workers and voters
* Voting booths will be at least 6 feet apart & cleaned constantly by EMS staff
* Single use pencils will be provided
* Voters are strongly urged to wear cloth face coverings to the polling place

You can help the electoral process by observing the social distancing protocol which will be enforced at polling places. Voters will be asked to maintain 6 feet of distance and the number of voters permitted inside the polling places will be limited. We ask for your patience and courtesy. Please be prepared to wait outside when polls are busy. If you would like to be prepared for what you might experience at each polling location, please view our social distancing and safety layout for the [Forestdale and Oakridge](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cgdunham%5CTown%20of%20Sandwich%2C%20MA%5CTown%20Admin%20Group%20-%20General%5CCOVID%2019%20Issues%5COperational%20Issues%5CPolling%20Location%20COVID%20layout%5CVoting%20Forestdale.pdf) Polls and the [Wing School polling](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cgdunham%5CTown%20of%20Sandwich%2C%20MA%5CTown%20Admin%20Group%20-%20General%5CCOVID%2019%20Issues%5COperational%20Issues%5CPolling%20Location%20COVID%20layout%5CWing%20School%20Voting.pdf) location.

This election comes at a time where the Town shows tremendous recovery from COVID-19. However we have seen six (6) new cases in the last several days and eleven (11) since last weekend. These cases appear to be related to increases in testing of health care facilities around the region. However we are concerned about the potential for community spread of the virus if we do not follow the carefully planned safety, health surveillance, sanitary, social distancing and good hygiene measures in place.

You can help! Please continue you good hygiene practices, wash your hands, keep your hands away from your face, wear a mask and be respectful courteous and caring for your fellow voters and election workers. If you do plan to VOTE on Tuesday we will look forward to safely and courteously supporting your right to vote. Have safe day!