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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 23, 2020

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COVID-19 Case Cluster Linked to Chatham

Chatham officials were notified Tuesday, July 21, 2020 by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) that a cluster of positive COVID-19 cases have been linked to a house party held in town on July 12, 2020. At this time the Town is aware that ten individuals who attended the party have tested positive, one is a Chatham resident. The Chatham Police Department received no reports or complaints regarding this house party.

Due to health privacy laws no identifying information on the Chatham resident can be released. The Town does not have access to residency information of the other positive cases. However, contact tracing is being conducted by the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) in accordance with public health guidelines.

The Town, in cooperation with the Barnstable County Department of Health & Environment and Cape Cod Healthcare, will conduct testing at a pop-up clinic located in the parking lot of the Town Annex (261 George Ryder Rd.) on Monday, July 27, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for anyone who attended the July 12th party or is a close contact to someone who attended the party. Pre-registration is required and may be made by calling the Chatham Health Division at 508-945-5165 Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The amount of information known to the Town on the party is limited other than approximately 30-50 persons were in attendance and not wearing masks according to the VNA. While the Governor has issued specific guidance and limitations for indoor and outdoor gatherings, COVID-19 Order No. 44, activities in “*unenclosed*” outdoor spaces, including backyards, are not subject to capacity limitations. Furthermore, while the Governors Order on face coverings, COVID-19 Order No. 31, only applies to “*public spaces*” public health guidance is increasingly

reinforcing the benefit of face coverings at all time when social distancing cannot be achieved to stop the spread of COVID-19.

A number of individuals testing positive reportedly work in the restaurant industry and accordingly the Health Division contacted local food service establishments requesting that employees be asked if they attended the party and to closely monitor all workers for symptoms. A few local restaurants have temporarily closed due to employees testing positive, or employees who are close contacts to positive individuals. The businesses are following all MADPH guidelines to deep-clean their establishments before re-opening.

The Town strongly encourages all residents and visitors adhere to State guidelines, Governor's Orders, and local Board of Health Orders regarding COVID-19 including wearing masks when social distancing cannot be maintained or in Board of Health designated mandatory mask areas, social distancing, and frequent hand washing or use of hand sanitizer.

Further information will be released when it becomes available.

Updated COVID-19 information is available on the Town's website: <https://www.chatham-ma.gov/home/pages/covid-19-coronavirus-information>.

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