

# **Acushnet Fire Chief statement about positive tests for COVID-19 doubling in one week; violating social distancing**

“We saw the sun this week! During this crisis, it is humbling to admit that something so routine as a day full of sunshine matters.

With the warmer weather and, hopefully, sunnier days ahead we need to keep focused on social distancing. At this point, no one needs a lecture about the benefits of staying at least 6 feet apart. It works, it will flatten the curve, it is necessary. To violate that simple request jeopardizes our collective recovery.

“Several members of the Fire and Police Department families are assisting the Council on Aging with the delivery of Meals on Wheels. As could be expected two things have happened; the request for meals from homebound seniors has increased and the number of volunteer drivers has decreased.

My biggest take away from my interactions – all from a distance – with these Acushnet residents in need is that they are scared, not frightened, but scared. It can be seen in their eyes. They know they are in a high-risk group and are prone to underlying medical conditions. They are often alone at home watching endless news reports of the crisis. Their interactions with family and friends have been cut off. Usually, when we come across this population they are quick to talk and relish the visit. Now they barely look at us through small openings in front doors. It is a reminder of the silent

damage this crisis is causing to those we hold dear.

“For every public violation of social distancing, the fear experienced by so many will remain. Increased exposure does nothing to flatten the curve but it does a lot to extend the crisis. Covid-19 is here in Acushnet, plain and simple. Our public safety personnel are treating each call in which we need to get within six feet of a person as a possible exposure. We are taking the necessary precautions because we, like you, don’t know who, knowingly or unknowingly, has the virus. We have transported in our ambulances residents who later tested positive. We know that we took all necessary precautions during our time with them. While still scary, there is a measure of comfort knowing we took appropriate precautions and wore the required PPE.

“We can’t always socially distance ourselves but you can, and you must. Now is not the time to let up. Now is the time to double down for the safety of ourselves, our families, friends, and those neighbors who live day to day with fear in their eyes.

“As of today, we have 11 residents in town who have tested positive for Covid-19. That is more than double the amount since last Friday. All are in our thoughts and prayers and we continue to wish for their speedy and complete recovery.”

With hope,  
Kevin.”