Cape Cod Healthcare Covid-19 Community Alert Heat Map System

In Collaboration with Cape Cod Commission and the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment

Frequently Asked Questions about methods used in the system

1. **What is the source for the data used in the heat map?**

   Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN) database that contains infectious disease surveillance data collected by the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences (BIDLS). All COVID-19 positive tests reported by all Massachusetts hospitals, healthcare systems and laboratories are housed in this database for public health reporting purposes during crisis.
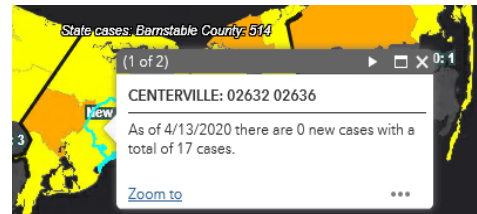
2. **How are patient privacy laws applied in this heat map reporting?**

   HIPAA and all other applicable privacy laws and related public health reporting exceptions have been factored into the development and operation of this reporting system.

3. **How often is the data updated?**   Three times a week (Map updated on Tues, Thurs & Sat)

4. **A few towns have zip code that share villages from another town or a village could share two zip codes. How is this reconciled when reporting data?**

   If a zip code has unique/uncommon linkage to villages it is explicitly noted for the viewer who clicks on that zip code to learn which zip code + village is represented by the data. Here's an example for how a display is shown when two zip codes and the corresponding data are shared by one village, as shown in this example of Centerville.

5. **Why is there a difference between the state totals and the sum of Cape Cod's regional totals?**

   - The sum of our totals could be **_lower_** than the state totals because we do not count duplicates or same individual twice when she/he re-tests positive during illness
   - The sum of our totals could be **_higher_** than the state totals because we don't subtract the recovered from the total at the same rate as the state (data dependency on state)
   - The above factors impact the 100% matching of the state totals with the sum of our regional running totals but **DO NOT** impact the number of our daily new case numbers.

6. **Do the running totals in the heat map include positive cases in long term care facilities in each region and zip code?**
   Yes. Beginning on April 15, positive cases from long-term care facilities were included in the running totals for each region and zip code.

7. **When is a town or zip code downgraded from red to yellow to indicate reduced risk?**
   After being free of new cases for 2 incubation periods (2 x 14 days =28 days) as per the state.

Version updated on 07/21/2020 with revision of #3 reflecting the new, lower frequency of map update (three times a week) in view of low rates of positives