

To the Honorable Chilmark Board of Selectmen,

In terms of the discussion of Mandating a vaccine for the Tri-Town Ambulance Staff, I felt that I should share my thoughts, and what I have currently adopted for the service.

Initially my thoughts were to mandate that all providers receive the vaccine when it rolled out, as soon as humanly possible. I was thinking that this would be a good way to protect our patients, our providers, as well as their families. However, in talking with my squad, and listening to their concerns, I have changed my mind.

Several of our providers have expressed concern with the technology used to create the Pfizer and Moderna Vaccines. They have had questions about the methods used to create such vaccines, and the lack of extended peer review. I honestly did not have answers for them, so I came up with the following plan for Tri-Town Ambulance:

- I have mandated that all providers receive a vaccine, however I have not mandated which vaccine that they must receive
- I have not given a timetable of when such vaccines must be received, but have advised everyone that if The Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) or the State mandate a time frame, then we will have to revisit and adjust our plan

I have consulted with the other Island Ambulance Services, and currently none of them are mandating that any of their providers receive a vaccine. They are all waiting for guidance from the State or OEMS.

I look forward to having further conversations with your board at the January 5th Selectmens meeting.

Sincerely,

Ben Retmier

Tri-Town Ambulance Chief