



Town of Tisbury
Office of the Town Administrator/Personnel Director
51 Spring Street, P.O. Box 1239
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
(Tel. 508-696-4203)

March 18, 2020

PRESS RELEASE, For Immediate Release

On March 17, 2020, the MV Times ran a story reporting that the Town's Emergency Management Director, Mr. Micah Agnoli, was in self-quarantine due to exposure to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. The Times ran with the story after the Town's Harbormaster, Mr. John Crocker, reported that Mr. Agnoli had shared with him that he was in self-quarantine off-island and despite the fact that Mr. Crocker "did not know" what triggered Mr. Agnoli's decision.

Information concerning an employee's physical condition and/or health status is highly confidential and implicates privacy interests and privacy rights of the employee. Mr. Crocker should not have shared his confidential discussion with Mr. Agnoli and Mr. Crocker's unauthorized release of his discussion without Mr. Agnoli's consent has been addressed by my office. Additionally, it should not have been reported that Mr. Agnoli was exposed to COVID-19 given the complete lack of corroboration on that point.

While Mr. Agnoli has self-quarantined off-island there is no indication that he has contracted COVID-19 or that he was otherwise exposed to it while on-island. Employers are mandating that employee's self-quarantine if they experience flu-like symptoms, regardless of whether they came into contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or associated with a third party who has contracted COVID-19.

Mr. Agnoli remains actively engaged in the Town's emergency management planning to combat the COVID-19 pandemic from his location off-island. He is in routine contact with other island departments to assist and aid in the on-island response and is in direct contact with my office and the Board of Selectmen.

John W. Grande
Town Administrator/Personnel Director
Town of Tisbury