# Town of Mount Desert: Covid Update

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**May 22, 2020** / 4 pm / Town Manager's Office

**Memorial Day:**

**"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." – Joseph Campbell**

**In accordance with directives from the President, Governor Janet Mills today ordered that the United States and State of Maine flags be flown at half-staff immediately until sunset on Sunday, May 24th in solemn remembrance of the victims of the coronavirus pandemic. Governor Mills also ordered that the United States and State of Maine flags be flown at half-staff this Monday, May 25, 2020 until noon in honor of Memorial Day.**

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**The Town of Mount Desert expects residents and visitors alike to abide by CDC and State recommendations for mask wearing, social distancing, quarantine, isolation, and handwashing. Abiding by these recommendations will help protect our island community.**

- Wearing a mask protects those around you as often we can unknowingly be carriers of Covid 19.
- Retail stores are now permitted to be open to the public.
- Restaurants are now permitted to seat customers inside.
- Governor Mills says reservations may be accepted for occupancy starting June 1 for Maine residents and non-residents who comply with the state's 14-day quarantine requirement. Click here to read the full press release from Governor Mills.

**The Governor's order requires Maine people to wear cloth face coverings in public places where physical distancing is difficult to maintain, as recommended by the U.S. CDC. The order identifies public settings as:**

- Indoor spaces that are accessible to the public such as grocery stores, retail stores, pharmacies and healthcare facilities
- Outdoor spaces such as playgrounds, busy parking lots, and other areas such as lines for take-out service where the public typically gathers in a smaller area
- Public transportation such as a taxi, Uber, Lyft, ride-sharing or similar service
- Ferry, bus, or train
- Any semi-enclosed transit stop or waiting area
- Under the order, cloth face coverings are not required for children under age 2, a child in a child care setting, or for anyone who has trouble breathing or related

medical conditions, or who is otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

***Maine Requires all visitors and returning residents to quarantine for 14 days.**

**What does quarantine mean? Please click this link to see the answer to this question and many Maine CDC FAQ's**

## Covid Transmission Update

- **MDI Hospital confirmed that they have had five (5) positive tests to date.**
- **As of today 5/22/20, Maine CDC has confirmed eleven (11) positive cases in Hancock County.**
- **There is one (1) positive case at Birch Bay Village in Bar Harbor.**
    - **Click Here for Birch Bay Press Release**

Maine Center for Disease Control

## Public Safety, Municipal & Hancock County News

**All municipal buildings, schools, restrooms, and playgrounds remain closed to the public.**

- **The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held June 1, 2020 - 6:30pm.**
- **The Main Street construction project is due to end on May 22nd and will resume again in October.**
- **The Municipal Offices will be closed for Memorial Day on 5/25. As a reminder, there will be no Town sponsored parade or cookout this year.**

The EOC, Emergency Operations Center, has suspended regularly scheduled meetings and will resume as necessary.

*Report of Emergency Operation Center Staff Briefing: May 12, 2020

The EOC will remain activated at a level 3, which is designated as a "Standby" status as defined in the Town's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), until the end of day, Tuesday, May 12th. The Local Emergency Management Director (LEMD) will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our area and the State.

The briefing was attended via teleconference by the Town Manager, Police Chief, Harbormaster, Public works Director, Northeast Harbor Ambulance Service's (NEHAS) Service Chief, LEMD/Fire Chief, Town Clerk and Treasurer.

The EOC briefing began with a quick overview of confirmed cases in the State. It was noted that the reported infection rate continues to increase overall and varies in degree from day to day. As of this briefing, the number of cases in Hancock County remains at 10. The LEMD reminded staff members that this will most likely be our last weekly briefing unless a surge or second wave should affect our area.

The EOC staff was asked to provide an update of their current situation and their operational objectives and any resources needed to complete those objectives. The overall readiness or ability to maintain operations within the town government has changed little since the last EOC staff meeting. Below is each staff members report:

- Town Manager (TM) – The Town Office is currently still in lockdown. Right now, the goal is to try and open the Town Office for business on June 1st. Department staff have been meeting weekly to discuss plans to reopen the customer service area of the Town Office. Issues such as adhering to appropriate distancing, customer flow and establishing work station(s) are items that are being evaluated. Extended work hours or setting up an appointment system are other possibilities being considered.

- NEHAS – Little change for the NEHAS. Two staff members on duty for 24 hour shifts, 7 days a week will remain through August. The Service Chief expects an increase in calls in the coming weeks, which is typical during the summer season. The unknown is will there be an increase in COVID-19 related cases as well. Daily cleaning and disinfecting procedures will continue as will monitoring of staff's health to prevent possible infection spread.

- Police Chief – The Chief reports that his department will begin shifting to the normal summer schedule which will increase staff numbers to coincide with increase in seasonal activities. The renovations at the Bar Harbor PD and dispatch areas are entering its final stages. Inquiries regarding quarantining and stay-at-home orders are continuing to be fielded. Staff and management have continued their education campaign in regards to Governors Mills Executive Orders.

- Treasurer – No changes to report within the department. Staffing level and schedules are the same. Additional PPE supplies have been acquired in preparations of the office opening.

- Public Works Director (PW) – The Public Work Director reports that staff will begin returning back to its normal schedule and daily operations. Employees will be briefed on proper social distancing guidelines and, if not possible, the wearing of masks. Yearly seasonal work such as routine yard work and line painting on town-owned streets and parking lots will begin soon.

- Harbormaster – Harbormaster reports that seasonal staff has already started, or will soon be starting at the marina. The Harbormaster and Deputy Harbormaster will go back to their normal schedule beginning next week. Procedures are being worked out to comply with social distancing guidelines while opening. Plexiglass barriers will

be installed in the office area of the Harbormaster's building for employee/customer protection.

- Fire Chief – No significant change in operations within the Fire Department. The Chief said he plans to discontinue the present 24/7 staffing as of May 17th. The fire department portions of the Seal Harbor, Northeast Harbor and Somesville stations will remain locked down. PPE inventory is stable and should last through the summer. Chief said that extra precautionary measures will be taken when responding residents with known or suspected out of state occupants.

- Town Clerk – Town Clerk indicates little or no change since last week. As was reported by the TM, preparations have begun to allow public access to the Town Office within CDC guidelines. There was some discussion on the upcoming elections and what the arrangements would be needed at the Somesville fire station.

The EOC was activated in March to act as a command center for monitoring and directing the Town's emergency response to the public health threat from the COVID-19 virus. The LEMD considers the current public health threat as minimal and therefore the EOC's purpose fulfilled and sees no longer the need for it to remain active. The Town's continuity of essential municipal functions is stable and the demand for resources, response coordination, and all identified incident management objectives, have been met. Deactivation does not mean that the presence of COVID-19 has been eradicated or that people are no longer at risk of infection, but rather the transition for the each department from EOC activation to more routine, long-term activities to protect employees and community members from the threat of the virus.

## Island Explorer

Downeast Transportation, in consultation with its partners, has decided to indefinitely postpone Island Explorer bus system service for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Island Explorer is a propane-powered, fare-free transit system that serves Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. In 2019, the bus system carried more than 648,000 passengers. Service would normally begin June 23rd on Mount Desert Island and Memorial Day weekend on the Schoodic Peninsula, and run through Columbus Day.

## MDI Hospital

16 Ways to Help Reduce Covid Anxiety

Nutrition during Covid 19

**MDI Hospital Coronavirus Call Center :**If you are having symptoms or think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, call your primary care provider. If you do not have one, reach out to our Coronavirus Call Center at 207-801-5900. Calling ahead helps our dedicated health care

professionals provide the best possible care and protects those in our community who are most vulnerable.

Remember: **PLEASE CALL AHEAD**

MDI Hospital has suspended visitation. There are several exceptions, please visit this website to learn more.

MDI Hospital Covid Updates

## Mt. Desert Chamber of Commerce

- Resource lists for businesses and visitors

**Businesses that are open or that will open soon:**

- **Shaw Jewelry: June 8: Will not be hosting their Thursday night opening receptions. However they will be changing our exhibits every two weeks as is our history. They have an awesome schedule of jewelers, painters, and sculptors. We are not sure about artist appearances due to the quarantine restrictions.**
- **Bowden Marine Service: open.**
- **Smart Studio: hopes to open June 1st. By appointment and limited amount of customers allowed in the store at a time for social distancing. Masks are requested. Hours are to be determined. Call for 207-664-4907 for custom framing or for shopping appointments.**
- **Galyn's, 17 Main St. Bar Harbor is reopening for dine-in and take-out beginning Monday May 18. Serving from 11:30am-8:30pm daily.**
- **Full Circle Printing Solutions are back to normal hours. 8am-4pm Monday through Friday.**
- **Christopher Smith: will open Mid-June. More details to come.**
- **The Gallery at Somes Sound is opening Monday June 1st. Open 7 days a week Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm. Sunday 1pm-5pm.**
- **Northeast Harbor Library: curbside pickup starting June 1st.**
- **Nor'easter Pound & Market: opening May 18, open 7 days a week at 7am-close.**
- **Kimball Shop: currently open by appointment with mask or for curbside service, doors will open to masked customers on Monday -Saturday from 10am-5pm on May 21st.**
- **Main Street Variety: Open: Monday-Friday 5:30am-5:30pm, Saturday 7am-5pm, Sunday Closed**
- **Pinetree Market: Open; 8am-8pm seven days a week**
- **FT Browns: Open; Monday -Friday 8am-5pm; Saturday 8:30am-noon; Sunday closed.**
- **Seaside Deli: Open Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday 9am -2pm**
- **123 Main Street will open June 22 through September 7 ; 7 days a week from 9-3 everyday, with dinner pick up from 5:30 to 7 daily. Take out , curbside and limited store and porch dining.**

**See WABI coverage of** Northeast Harbor businesses getting a boost from summer residents

## Pine Tree Market

**PTM is happy that Main Street construction is done for the summer.**

**PTM has face masks (5 packs for $5.00) and disinfectants. Loads of fresh fruit and produce, pork, chicken, steaks and**

Pine Tree Market is doing curbside pickup and intown deliveries.

Please call 207-276-3335

PTM wants to help you keep your circles small and close.

## FT Brown

FT Brown continues to serve the community even with the doors closed. **FT Brown is offering curbside pickup, free Island Wide Delivery and delivery to boats to outer islands.**

- **New: 25% off entire store for frontline workers.**
- **The store is well supplied with disinfectants, toilet paper, and bleach.**
- **Please call ahead to order bulk soils.**
- **10% discounts are applied to bulk orders for large quantities.**

Kelly Brown is ready for the summer season and to serve the Island.

Please pay attention to their FB page and website for updates.

Please call for orders or to be placed on a waiting list for items in need. 207-276-3329

Hours: 8am to 5pm

## Main Street Variety

**Main Street Variety continues to be well stocked and even has hand sanitizer and disposable gloves for sale.**

**MSV asks that all customers wear masks inside the store. They have extras on hand if customers do not have them.**

They have a limit of 5 people in the store at a time and ask that you honor the 6 foot rules inside and browse with your eyes and not your hands. MSV has installed a new piece of plexiglass at the register to protect customers and patrons alike.

They are sanitizing on the hour, and in between the hours too.

Gas prices today are **$1.84** for regular and **$2.69** for diesel.

Curbside pickup is available, please call 207-276-3225

Hours: M-F 5:30am - 5:30pm/ Saturday 7am-5pm/ Sunday closed

## Somesville One Stop / RH FOSTER

SOS reports that they are well supplied and able to serve their customers.

Gas prices **$1.81** for regular, **$2.54** for diesel

Hours: 5am-10pm Monday thru Saturday, and 7am-10pm on Sunday.

(hours are subject to change, check here for updates)

## The First- NEH

Hours:

- Monday - Wednesday: 8:00am - 4:00pm
- Thursday and Friday: 8:00am to 5:00pm
- Saturday: 8:00am – Noon

If you need assistance please call us at 800-564-3195. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

On the Island, our Bar Harbor location at 102 Main Street and Southwest Harbor Drive-Up location on Seal Cove Road are available.

## Bar Harbor Bank & Trust- NEH

To protect the health and safety of our customers and employees, our branch lobbies are accessible by appointment only for customers who need to complete transactions that cannot be conducted via our drive-up window, ATMs, or over the phone.

Walk-ins are not allowed at this time.

Please call your Northeast Harbor Branch, 207-276-3314 or your Somesville Branch, 207-244-4417 to set up an appointment.

## Hannaford

**“As always, a big thank you to all of our customers for their understanding through many changes in how we operate in today’s environment!” - Jay Boyce, Manager**

Deli and seafood service cases are now available. They ask customers to be patient as they pilot a system that supports social distancing. Customers should not expect to see our full variety immediately, but it will improve over the coming weeks.

Deli hours are 7am to 7pm.

Seafood hours are 10am to 7pm.

Store hours are now 7am - 9pm daily.

Curbside Pickup is now available for prescriptions, please call the pharmacy for details (207) 288-0421

Senior hours are now 7 am- 8 am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

There may be daily limits per customer on the following items:

BUTTER - BABY WIPES - NAPKINS - PAPER TOWELS - HOUSEHOLD CLEANING SUPPLIES - HAND SANITIZER - EGGS - VITAMINS - COUGH & COLD MEDICINE - DISINFECTING SPRAY ALOE - RUBBING ALCOHOL - LIQUID HAND SOAP - FACE MASKS - TOILET PAPER - FLOUR FACIAL TISSUE - PAIN RELIEVERS

At this time, reusable bags are no longer permitted inside the building. This includes the reusable pre-wrap bags that customers may put fruits and vegetables in. Hannaford will be using single-use plastic bags until further notice.

**To those who are looking for work: Hannaford is currently hiring.**

## Land & Garden Preserve

Little Long Pond and all the Preserve's natural lands remain open. Visitors to the Preserve are encouraged to follow disinfecting and distancing protocols.

Beginning the week of April 20, 2020 the Natural Lands team will begin an erosion control project along the southeastern side of Little Long Pond. The lower carriage road leading to the Boathouse will be seeded and closed to visitors for the next six weeks. Please do not go beyond any fencing and signage to allow new grass the necessary time for proper germination.

The gardens remain closed and locked, and will reopen when it is safe to do so.

More info on our website: https://www.gardenpreserve.org/

## School Information: Mt. Desert Elementary & MDI High School

**MDI High School**

**GRADUATION: Sunday, June 7th at 2:00 pm**

**MDI High School will host its Graduation Ceremony in the gym parking lot at the High School followed by a parade through the communities in which our graduates live. Parade plans to come.**

MDIHS Food Program Option



Any MDI High School student who resides in the town of Bar Harbor, Mount Desert, Tremont, Trenton or Southwest Harbor will have the opportunity to pick up a bag breakfast/lunch. Each bag can be picked up at your town's elementary school (Town of BH @ Conners Emerson, Town of Mount Desert @ MDES, Town of Tremont @ Tremont Elementary Town of Trenton @ Trenton Elementary and Town of SWH @ Pemetic). These meals are available free to any MDIHS student regardless of your lunch status. Students in Hancock or Lamoine --please contact your elementary school for meal options.

↬Complete this survey by Thursday each week to reserve meals for the following week.

**Mount Desert Elementary School**

Sign up for lunch HERE. This is for all students attending Mount Desert Elementary School and for MDI High School Students living in Hall Quarry, Somesville, Otter Creek, Northeast Harbor, Pretty Marsh, Seal Harbor and Mount Desert.

- http://www.mdirss.org/
- Latest email update from Principal Haney MDI High School - **Graduation Plans**
- Latest email update from Superintendent Marc Gousse - **Summer Plans**
- Latest email update from MDES
- Mount Desert Elementary * Food for families
- MDES Family Supports Form

## Community Resources

- **Healthy Acadia Newsletter 5/18**
- The First: Jon Nicholson & Tony McKim Payroll Protection Plan "Wrap Up" video from 5/5
- Mount Desert 365 & Mount Desert 365 Resource Spreadsheet is a resource list for MDI
- Open Table MDI – Building Community, One Meal at a Time is delivering meals twice a week, free of charge, to anyone who requests them (MDI wide), as well as once a week curbside pick up. They are donation based and the food is healthy and tasty.
- Northeast Harbor Library live online preschool story time Mondays at 10am FB page
- Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce
- Project Open: A community spreadsheet letting residents and visitors know what island businesses are open
- Mount Desert Island Community Response is a resource list for all of MDI
- Bar Harbor Food Pantry
- Help Request to MDI Community Helpers

**Ways to Help**

- MDI Nonprofit Alliance : Share Our Stimulus ways to share stimulus money with local nonprofits.
- MDI Community Helpers
- Island Connections

## Acadia National Park

- **See latest alert from ANP : Delay of Opening**

## Mental Health Resources

- National Alliance on Mental Illness Maine
- Maine DHHS - Hotlines/Crisis Numbers
- Crisis Services

## Government News & Mandates & Resources

**Governor Mills: Latest Updates :**

- **Governor Mills Announces New Major Federal Funding Will Be Used To Expand Lab and Testing Capacity Across Maine**
- **Mills Announces Changes to Opening Plans, RV Parks and Campgrounds**
- Mills Announces Expanded Testing Capability
- Mills Administration Allows Lodging Reservations For Future Stays, 5/15/20
- Governor Mills Press Release, 5/8/2020
- Retail Business Guidelines, 5/8/2020
- General Guidance Document that applies to all businesses
- Governor Mills's Restarting Maine Plan

**Representative Brian Hubbell's latest newsletter and resource list : 5/21/20 Newsletter**

**Pandemic Unemployment Assistance**

**Maine Tourism Relief Fund : Apply For Assistance beginning May 5**

The Small Business Association **Link to loan and grant forms: EIDL & PPP**

- **The SBA has resumed accepting Paycheck Protection Program applications as of 4/27/20**

CDC Guidelines

Maine CDC

For more information or to add to this resource page, please email: manager@mtdesert.org