

Town of Mount Desert: Covid Update

April 8, 2020 / 4 pm / Town Manager's Office

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

Today, in the Maine CDC briefing, Dr. Shah thanked Mainers for flattening the curve. He acknowledged the tremendous sacrifice that Mainers have made by staying home and sincerely stated, "It has saved lives."

What is Social Distancing? [This CDC link describes best practices.](#)

Covid Transmission Update

MDI Hospital confirmed that they have had three (3) positive tests to date.

As of today 4/8/20, Maine CDC has confirmed three (3) positive cases in Hancock County.

[Maine Center for Disease Control](#)

[Projections for Maine and the US from HealthData.org](#)

Public Safety & Municipal News

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

[Year-round Curbside Trash Collection Schedule](#)

[April Clean Up Week has been rescheduled](#): the 2020 annual Spring waste clean-up week to the week of June 8, 2020. This date is subject to change depending on circumstances surrounding the virus at that time.

Police Department: The Town's Police Department is tasked with enforcing the Governor's [Essential Business Mandate](#) to ensure that all non essential businesses are complying with the order to close. Please call the department 276-5111 for more information.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff was asked to provide a brief description of their current situation, any changes in their department or agency operations, and any change in their hard facilities since the last briefing. They were also requested to provide their operational objectives and any resources needed to complete

Town Manager (TM) – Town Office remains closed to the public and is in lockdown. Staffing remains stable. In addition to regular business, measures are being taken to assure information about changes due to Covid 19 is current and up to date.

NEH Ambulance Service - The Service Chief reports no change in operations since the last briefing. Staffing levels continue to be steady. Crews are at heightened awareness. Extra steps have been taken so in the event there are short term crews shortages within NEHAS, neighboring EMS agencies will be automatically dispatched to Mount Desert to assure seamless medical coverage in town.

Police Chief – The Police Chief reports no disruption in continuity of operations within their department. Shift schedules continue to be modified to reduce or remove the likelihood of more than one officer in the PD office or patrol room. Officers have been assigned their own work stations to further reduce the likelihood of contamination. PD will be following State protocols in regards to the Governor’s “shelter-in-place” order. Plans are not to actively seek out violators but will monitor for reasonable compliance.

Treasurer - The Treasurer has reported that all essentials operations are being completed. Some staff are remaining offsite and working remotely with no major problems. The mailbox system and drop box system continues to work well.

Public Works Director – The Public Works Director indicated that the department’s staff was nearly full strength with no known or anticipated health issues at this time. Work schedules are going to be adjusted so that department staff will have as minimal contact with each other as possible. All are adhering to and practicing US CDC Social Distancing guidelines within the workplace. Workers have been vigilant in wiping down everything at worksites and in vehicles. PW Director advised every one of the forthcoming removal of all trash dumpsters in Town due to health and safety concerns to PW staff. PW Director also states that receiving mail increases employee exposure to the virus and has suggested a modification to mail handling to minimize risk.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk reports that the first week of their staff working split shifts has worked well. Overall, things seem to be running smoothly.

The Town’s operations and services are running as efficiently as possible. Staffing schedules and work environments, in most cases, have been significantly altered to adapt to this new way of doing business, but all have handled it professionally and commendably. A couple of “watch out” areas I would recommend monitoring closely would be, as mentioned early, what to do about the marina if the pandemic should worsen or extends late into spring. Some thoughts should be given to public areas under the Town’s control which may promote public gatherings, like parks and beaches. Some communities in Maine have already begun to address this by closing their beaches and parks.

All indications are that we will see more confirmed cases in our area before things level off. Unfortunately, none of us knows when that will be. Some comfort can be taken in the fact that the Town in a whole, is in a much better position to face whatever challenges lay ahead than we were just 3 weeks ago.

Public Works: For public, and employee health and safety reasons we will be removing the garbage dumpsters from the highway garage and the Northeast Harbor marina on April 3, 2020.

Leaving garbage in these areas constitutes littering. Please use the town's curbside collection service or take your garbage to the transfer station in Southwest Harbor on Long Pond Road off Seal Cove Road. For more information about why this is being done [click here](#).

*If you own rental property we ask that you do not open your building until the Civil State of Emergency has passed.

*If you have recently arrived, you must quarantine for a minimum of fourteen (14) days. Do not leave your property.

The next Board of Selectmen Zoom meeting will be on 4/21 at 4:00 PM

[To participate in this meeting online or by phone, click here for instructions.](#)

MDI Hospital

[Drs. Kuffler and Abreu's Letter about the Seven Steps to Staying Safe](#)

[MDI Hospital is Accepting Donations of Personal Protective Equipment PPE](#)

[MDI Hospital is Accepting Donations of Hand Sewn Masks for Patients](#)

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**

As of 3/27/2020 MDI Hospital has suspended visitation. There are several exceptions, please visit this website to learn more.

[MDI Hospital Covid Updates](#)

Pine Tree Market

PTM reports today that the store is very clean, very well stocked, and that they have many of the items that are in need such as chicken, grass fed ground beef, toilet paper, lots of produce and covid cleaning supplies.

There's additional produce in the back by the dairy.

Aaron also noted that the organic milk, while more expensive, has a much longer shelf life than regular milk so it may be worth buying the organic.

Carts and baskets are washed after each use.

Hours are 8am to 8pm Everyday.

They are 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 and Island Wide Delivery.**

They are getting frequent deliveries of items like hand sanitizer, 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 with milk, eggs, toilet paper, bread, english muffins, half & half, juice, and beer.

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.

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

Gas prices today are \$1.64 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 **\$1.69** for regular, **\$2.69** for diesel

Hours: 6am-8pm ([hours are subject to change, check here for updates](#))

Deli closes at 7pm and is not open on Sunday

The First- NEH

Effective Monday, April 6, 2020

Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 4:00pm, Saturdays: 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

In an effort to reduce exposure to Covid 19 for all, Hannaford continues making changes to in-store practices.

4/8/2020 there is a daily limit of 1 (one) 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.

Red hand baskets are no longer in use.

Carts will be stored outside and there will be a queuing line that will keep customers 6 feet apart.

No more than 50 people are allowed inside the store at any one time, so please limit the number of shoppers per household.

Hannaford has dedicated the hour from 6-7 AM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays as a specific shopping time for our elderly (60 plus) and those who are immunocompromised.

They are open 7 days a week from 7am to 9pm for all other patrons.

Store manager Jay Boyce reports that the quietest times at the store continue to be 10am-2pm and 4pm-9pm.

Additionally, he is noticing that many who come in are single shoppers that are buying a week's worth of groceries or more, and that staff and customers are working hard at social distancing.

He is grateful that shoppers are being so respectful of the many changes.

Island 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.

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/>

Mt. Desert Chamber of Commerce

Includes resource lists businesses and visitors

<https://mtdesertchamber.org/>

School Information: Mt. Desert Elementary & MDI High School

<http://www.mdirss.org/>

[Latest email update from Principal Haney MDI Highschool](#)

[Latest email update from Superintendent Marc Gousse](#)

[Latest email update from MDES](#)

[Mount Desert Elementary](#) * Food for families

[MDES Family Supports Form](#)

Community Resources

[Mount Desert 365](#) & [Mount Desert 365 Resource Spreadsheet](#) is a resource list for all of MDI

[Jon Nicholson and Tony McKim from the The First in Bar Harbor present a explanation of the PPP and EIDBL to help residents and businesses navigate the latest stimulus package](#)

[Northeast Harbor Library](#) has preschool story time Mondays at 10am on their [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](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

[MDI Community Helpers](#)

[Island Connections](#)

Acadia National Park

[See latest alert from ANP](#)

Mental Health Resources

[National Alliance on Mental Illness Maine](#)

[Maine DHHS - Hotlines/Crisis Numbers](#)

[Crisis Services](#)

Government News & Mandates

4/7/2020

[Maine Department of Education recommendation to continue remote learning through the end of the school year.](#)

April 4, 2020

[Governor Mills Announces Approval of Federal Disaster Declaration For COVID-19 Response in Maine](#)

Governor Janet Mills announced today that the President has approved her [request for a major disaster declaration](#) for the State of Maine, unlocking critical federal assistance for state agencies and municipalities in Maine.

[Read more...](#)

[Governor Mills Issues Executive Order Mandating Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in Maine to Protect Public Health and Safety](#)

April 3, 2020

Governor Janet Mills today [issued an Executive Order](#) mandating that travelers arriving in Maine, regardless of their state of residency, self-quarantine for 14 days to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

[Read more...](#)

[The Small Business Association](#) Link to loan and grant forms: EIDBL & PPP

[CDC Guidelines](#)

[Maine CDC](#)

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