

Town of Mount Desert: Covid Update

April 17, 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.

Governor Mills, when discussing the best ways to help in our community said, "I suggest you call a neighbor, make sure they are okay. Thank our front line workers, our health care workers. Hug your kids, they are missing their friends and their teachers and schoolmates. Stay the course. Stay home to beat this virus. Be kind and love one another."

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

Covid Transmission Update

MDI Hospital confirmed that they have had four (4) positive tests to date.

As of today 4/15/20, Maine CDC has confirmed six (6) 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 remain closed to the public.

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.](#)

- [Click here to access the agenda for this meeting](#)

Below is a report to the Board of Selectmen on the Town of Mount Desert's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) briefing for 0900 hours on April 14, 2020. The EOC activation level remains at 3 which is designated as a "Standby" status as defined in the Town's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The Local Emergency Management Director (LEMD) continues to closely monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our area. 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 an overview of confirmed COVID-19 cases as reported by the Maine CDC. As of this briefing, there were 698 cases statewide with 5 of them located in Hancock County. Locally, MDI Hospital reports they have tested 1 Hancock County resident as positive and 2 identified as “other”. The LEMD indicated that he had been tracking confirmed cases daily for the last several days and has seen an increase from about 20 to 25 / day to about 30 to 35 / day.

The EOC staff was asked to provide a brief description of their current situation and their operational objectives and any resources needed to complete those objectives. Generally, there has been little change in operational capability or staff readiness of the Town. Below is each staff members report:

Town Manager (TM) – Town Office remains in lockdown. No change in staff levels or health.

NEHAS - The Service Chief reports little change since last briefing. Staffing continues to be sound while maintaining around the clock coverage with either 2 on duty at the Seal Harbor fire station or with on-call EMT’s available in the Northeast Harbor area. Call volume is still down a little from normal. PPE inventory is in good shape for responding EMT’s.

Police Chief – The Police Chief indicated little to no change for staff levels or day to day operations. The PD continues their public education and enforcement efforts regarding the governor’s executive orders and issues specific instructions regarding the stay-at-home order. Updated guidelines and protocols continue to be delivered by the Federal CDC, Maine Department of Public Safety and/or the Attorney General’s Office on a consistent basis.

Treasurer - The Treasurer stated no substantial change during the last operational period. All employees who are working remotely and requested mobile hotspots have now received them. Most, if not all are now active and functioning. Pay codes have been set up for Emergency Paid Sick Leave as it relates to the COVID-19 public health emergency. PPE for the town office staff is good.

Public Works Director – The Public Works Director affirmed no change in staffing or operational readiness. New schedule rotation continues to run efficiently. Necessary PPE is still in good shape. The Director indicated they will be purchasing additional disinfectant in the coming week and do not anticipate any problems acquiring more from their supplier.

Harbormaster – Harbormaster reports no change at this time. The Harbormaster and Deputy Harbormaster are continuing their rotating work schedule to maintain CDC’s recommended social distancing guidelines. Available PPE for both are still in good shape.

Fire Chief – Fire Chief says no major changes since last report. Staffing remains consistent. Staff has been very busy with burn permits. Changes have been made to allow daytime burning for those that purchase them online. In addition, a system has been created for those that cannot or do not want to obtain permits online, can now acquire one by calling the FD office.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk reported no real change in Admin. All staff remain healthy. Clerk thanked the NEHAS Service Chief for providing them with more gloves. Call volume by the general public has leveled off somewhat. Town Clerk has been engaged with working on Human Resource projects for much of the time. The Town’s continuity of operations remains strong at

all levels. Workplace protective measures put into place weeks ago all have seemed to have a positive effect in keeping Town staff relatively healthy, which has resulted in a functioning town government and sustained town services. Locally, numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases appear to be low. But we must remain vigilant. As mentioned earlier, statewide cases are rising every day. So, it is imperative for preventative measures such as safe, social distancing to continue for the foreseeable future.

Next weekly EOC Staff briefing will be on Tuesday, April 21 st beginning at 0900 hours.

Town Meeting has been postponed to a date uncertain due to Covid 19.

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.

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.

Message from 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.

MDI Hospital

[Press Release 4/13/20: MDI Hospital Acquires New Rapid Testing System](#)

[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**

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](#)
- [See who is open in Mount Desert: an updated list by the Mt.Desert Chamber](#)

Dear Members.

The **Summer Residents Association** is partnering with the **Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce** to gather information from local business owners about challenges facing their business as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Your answers will help us understand and identify the challenges facing small businesses in our community, and will help us think through ways that the SRA and Chamber can collaborate to provide assistance.

The results of this [anonymous survey](#) will only be presented in aggregate form and the results will be shared with all participants. Individual responses will be kept confidential.

The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Thanks for your willingness to share! [The survey will be open for responses for one week.](#)

Questions? Contact Micki at director@mountdesertchamber.org or contact SRA contact board member John Boynton at jb@123neh.com who will be analyzing the data and producing the report.

Survey Link: <https://surveyhero.com/c/dfc5f78f>

Thank you and be well.

Micki

Pine Tree Market

PTM reports today that the store is very clean, very well stocked because today is delivery day.

Rubbing Alcohol is now in stock.

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.**

Kelly Brown is pleased that they have received a shipment of new planting seeds and Coast of Maine soils.

They are getting frequent deliveries of items like hand sanitizer, please pay attention to their [FB page](#) and [website](#) for updates. **The next freight truck comes on Monday 4/20.**

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. 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 \$1.64 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 **\$1.59** 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

“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

Hannaford store hours will be 7am-8pm daily through May 9th.

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

Hannaford now has one way directional aisles in place to keep traffic flowing with minimal encounters of traffic coming the opposite way.

This will make it a little easier to achieve 6’ social distancing.

There are 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.

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/>

School Information: Mt. Desert Elementary & MDI High School

MDI High School

Lunch Sign up is at the link provided or by emailing wlittlefield@mdirss.org; or mcorrow@mdihs.org

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 Highschool](#)
- [Latest email update from Superintendent Marc Gousse](#) - video update
- [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 MDI
- [Jon Nicholson and Tony McKim from The First in Bar Harbor present an updated explanation of the PPP program.](#)
- [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](#)

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](#)

Mental Health Resources

- [National Alliance on Mental Illness Maine](#)
- [Maine DHHS - Hotlines/Crisis Numbers](#)
- [Crisis Services](#)

Government News & Mandates

- [Governor Mills: Latest Updates](#) : Governor Mills Extends State of Civil Emergency to May 15th As Maine Continues to Combat COVID-19
- [Representative Brian Hubbell's latest newsletter and resource list](#) : 4/16 Newsletter
- Questions regarding the Governor's suspension of lodging can be answered by sending an email to info@visitmaine.com
- [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