

Town of Mount Desert: Covid Update

April 27, 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.

"While we all dream of going back to the way things were, we have to face the hard truth that the coronavirus continues to be a threat and that life will not return to normal soon. Instead, we have to invent a new normal – a different way of doing business, shopping, traveling, and recreating that keeps all of us safe. In the coming weeks, my Administration will continue to assess the impact of the coronavirus in Maine and engage with various sectors of the Maine economy to determine how they can safely reopen at the right time in the right way. This will be a gradual process to protect the health of Maine people while restarting our economy." -Governor Janet Mills on April 23, 2020

Governor Mills anticipates deciding Tuesday (4/28/20) about extending the Stay at Home order.

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 4/27/20, Maine CDC has confirmed nine (9) positive cases in Hancock County.

[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 is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2020 at 4:00pm

From Director Andrew Sankey, Hancock County Emergency Management Agency

Hancock County COVID-19 briefing:

Good morning. As of today, 25 April, there are presently eight (8) persons diagnosed with COVID-19 in Hancock County.

1) The City of Bangor has developed and publishes daily a concise graphic snapshot of COVID-19 throughout Maine. There are both a Desktop and Mobile version you can access here: Desktop: <https://arcg.is/1Knarr> Mobile: <https://arcg.is/5qGGr> There is drop-down to view detailed information for Hancock County.

2) MEMA has published the attached, 6-page “Frequently Asked Questions” informational document that offers very straightforward explanations of both the intent and process of the Public Assistance Program in-place for reimbursement of your costs that are related to COVID-19 response. Additionally, there are links within this document that offer further, detailed tutorial information on the PA program, its purpose, how it is managed, and how it may be utilized by your jurisdiction, agency or organization. Whether you have already successfully registered with the FEMA Grants Portal online or are just beginning the process, I recommend you please make use of this reference information.

3) We continue to coordinate efforts to ensure that long-term care facilities here have both the adequate supply of Personal Protective Equipment as well as the ability to fulfill the requirements for both receiving and deploying PPE. We are also continuing our efforts to see other, (non-residential) care entities adequately supplied, though this remains a practical challenge. These efforts are collaborative, with the assistance of our Downeast District Public Health Liaison (Alfred May Jr.) and the Northern Maine Healthcare Coalition Coordinator (Megan Melville) both essential and very much appreciated. We are also thankful for those agencies and organizations that continue to conduct the requisite Fit Testing on behalf of others locally with this need; it is this cooperation, collaboration and kindnesses amongst individuals and organizations that is sustaining and enduringly reassuring in our collective abilities to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic.

4) We remain focused on the recovery phase. Not just optimistically but also practically, as we continue to work quietly with our many agency partners in the planning and preparation for the anticipated seasonal “business as usual” that awaits, albeit delayed. There are many routine risks in addition to that of the COVID-19 situation that remain and also require the ongoing preparedness efforts we and our partners conduct. As the public understandably and expectedly grows weary of both the lifestyle and economic hardships presently endured, we seek to ensure that our Public Safety personnel and those they protect are prepared to safely contend with the natural, technological and human-caused risks and threats that never really diminish and in many ways, are made more-so due to the present circumstances.

5) There’s a request that we report any instances of individuals (Public Safety, Healthcare, or homeless) that may have had need to be sheltered in non-congregate housing (hotel, etc.) due to potential exposure. If you have had any such instances or incur this in the future please share this statistic with us, being careful to not inadvertently convey any personal or medical history information of the individual(s).

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 21, 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 875 cases statewide, an increase of 177 confirmed cases in the last week. In Hancock County, there were a reported 6 confirmed cases, up 1 from the week before. LEMD also informed the EOC Staff that he had been in contact with Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to work through a couple of issues with the FEMA Grant Portal. The Town has been confirmed as registered and eligible to submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA). However, it was recommended by MEMA to wait for a while before submitting any RPA's, but should continue to track and record all COVID-19 related expenditures.

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. 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 with no public access allowed. No change in staff levels or healthiness from last week. TM said he has fielded some calls seeking information in regards to Maine's non-essential business closures. Chief Willis suggested those calls can be redirected to the PD as they have staff that is familiar with the Governor's Executive Orders.

NEHAS - The Service Chief indicated little change since last week's briefing. Staffing and PPE supplies are good. The staff continues to receive revised COVID-19 protocols from Maine EMS. As with Maine CDC, one topic of concern is congregate housing, particularly in our area. As of now, there are no issues, but this will continue to be monitored closely. There are no major changes at the hospital level.

Police Chief – The Police Chief reports no significant changes in staff or PPE inventory. The PD has been proactively offering advice and direction to the general public in respect to the Governor's Executive Orders. New and revised guidelines and protocols continue to be issued by the Federal CDC, Maine Department of Public Safety and/or the Attorney General's Office.

Treasurer - The Treasurer indicated staffing and daily operations are the same as the week before.

Public Works Director – The Public Works Director reports status quo. Staffing levels are good. PPE is in good shape. Daily operations remain normal.

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. Activity at the harbor is still somewhat quiet, which is typical for this time of year.

Fire Chief – Fire Chief says day-to-day operations are running as normal. 24/7 coverage is ongoing. Staffing levels are steady with no reported illnesses. FD acquired some face shields which will provide additional protection for firefighters thanks to the BHPD

Town Clerk – Town Clerk reported no real change in Admin. All staff appear to remain healthy. There was some discussion on what safety protocols may need to be implemented once the town office is open again to the general public. Maine CDC will likely provide some direction on this once it is considered safe to resume conducting business again.

Again, there seems to be little change from last week in the overall operational status in the Town.

Although nowhere near business as usual, all essential operations of the Town are presently running smoothly. The impact of the pandemic emergency may appear to be less severe in our area than in others, but both state and federal health officials warn against becoming complacent. Experts agree that the confirmed case amounts do not represent an actual number of infected people, as many will never be tested. We must remain vigilant.

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 well supplied and that they have hand sanitizer in stock, and more coming on Friday.

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, free Island Wide Delivery and delivery to boats to outer islands.**

***New today: 10% off entire store for frontline workers.**

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

They are getting frequent deliveries of disinfectants, 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. 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 **\$1.54** 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 **\$1.54** 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 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.

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.

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

[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 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

- On April 3, Governor Mills increased [assistance](#) to Maine families in need
- [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

Governor Mills: Latest Updates : [Outlines Vision for a Gradual, Safe Reopening of Maine's Economy](#) The Governor anticipates deciding Tuesday (4/28/20) about extending the *Stay at Home* order.

- [Click Here to participate in the online survey from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development to offer suggestions and concerns about reopening businesses in Maine.](#)

[Representative Brian Hubbell's latest newsletter and resource list](#) : 4/23/20 Newsletter
[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