

# Town of Mount Desert: Covid Update

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July 24, 2020 / 4 pm / Town Manager's Office

**Town is getting busy! PLEASE consider your neighbors by wearing a mask and practicing social distancing. This helps us all stay healthy.**

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.

Maine can welcome all visitors from VT, NH, CT, NJ, NY without test or quarantine and all others who provide a recent negative covid test or who quarantine for 14 days.

The Governor's mandate requires Maine people to wear cloth face coverings in public places where physical distancing is difficult to maintain, as recommended by the US CDC.

## Covid Transmission Update

- MDI Hospital confirmed that they have had five (5) positive tests to date.
- As of today 7/24/20, Maine CDC has confirmed nineteen (19) positive cases in Hancock County.
- The current case rate for the State of Maine is 28.1 per 10k people
- The current case rate for Hancock County is 3.5 per 10k people

[Maine Center for Disease Control](#)

## Public Safety, Municipal & Hancock County News

### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT PROPERTY OWNERS

- The Town of Mount Desert Annual Town Meeting will be a Drive-In meeting held at the MDI High School on August 11, 2020 at 5:30 pm.
  - The meeting will be live streamed on YouTube.
  - The meeting link will be posted when it is finalized
  - Check-in is required to participate, and the meeting will begin at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, August 11.
  - In case of inclement weather, Wednesday August 12 will be the makeup date.

- At the vehicle checkpoint voters will receive their voting card, the 2019 annual report, the warrant articles to be voted on, and any other pertinent information.
- After check-in cars will be directed to a parking spot.
- All voting will be done safely from your vehicles by holding your voting card out your car window.
- Voters will be allowed to leave their vehicles to approach the microphone for questions and comments on the warrant articles.
- There will be a strong sound system that will allow all voters in their vehicles to hear what is happening on the stage, like the high school graduation event.
- Call the Town Clerk at 276-5531 for more information
- Property taxes will be committed and due September 1, 2020.
  - Interest accrues starting November 1, 2020.
- Tax bills will be mailed out the last week of August.
- We will start taking Tax Club applications on September 1, 2020.
  - Taxpayers must be signed up by 10/31/20. For the current tax year, 2020-2021
  - Tax Clubs will be 10 equal payments from September 2020 to June 2021.
- Municipal Office hours are 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
- Marriage licenses, new trailer, and vehicle registrations require appointments:
  - Appointments are available on Tuesdays & Thursdays | 9-11 am & 2-4 pm
  - Call 276-5531 for more information or to make an appointment
- Twice weekly refuse collection begins Monday June 15, 2020 and continues through to September 12, 2020.

## MDI Hospital

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.

**Remember: PLEASE CALL AHEAD**

[MDI Hospital Covid Updates](#)

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

The track, tennis courts and playgrounds at MDI Regional Schools (AOS 91) are now open to the public, with the following guidelines....

- All State of Maine and CDC guidelines must be followed and adhered to at all times (social distancing, no large gathering, face covering, etc.)
- No team organized practices or equipment will be allowed or available
- Any person using the facilities will do so at their own risk. MDIRSS will not be responsible for any issues that may occur

- Only 2 tennis courts will be available at this time.
- Public restrooms will not be available
- Please note that the gyms and weight room will not be available
- Please note that all schools in MDIRSS are still shut down and not available

### School Emails & Websites:

- [Mount Desert Island Regional School System](#)

## MDIRSS Safe Return to School

The COVID-19 Pandemic impact on school continues. As we prepare for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year, MDIRSS Schools are offering two options to meet the needs of our students and families in response to this global health crisis. Please take some time to review the two options, and complete the survey linked below. Your input is vital to our planning for the opening of school.

### OPTION A: SCHOOL BASED

During the COVID-19 pandemic, following current state/local guidelines, and safety protocols, your child returns to school; at times, some (or all) of their learning may occur remotely.

#### Option A looks like:

- Attending school 5 full days each week, or a hybrid schedule including some days at school, some days learning remotely.
- Participation is expected and attendance will be recorded.
- Standards based grading practices in place.
- Physical distancing practices followed.
- Face coverings worn by all staff and students.
- Clear health guidelines.
- Staff reinforcement of hand washing.
- Food service will be provided.
- Extra-curricular activities (if available) will be offered.
- Timely communication from school regarding schedule, and any possible changes to a hybrid schedule (some days in school, some days at home) or complete remote schooling should community quarantine be necessary.

\*Ideally, students would be in school 5 days a week, however a safe response to the COVID 19 impact on our community will dictate whether we are in school every day, have a hybrid plan in place where some learning is at school, some remote, or if we are completely remote.

### OPTION B: VIRTUAL ONLY

During the COVID-19 pandemic, your child participates in school from home.

### Option B looks like:

- A teacher will be assigned to your child; groupings to be determined.
- Participation is expected and attendance will be recorded.
- Standards based grading practices in place.
- A device and learning materials will be provided.
- Modified Food service may be available.
- Extra-curricular activities (if available) will be offered.

### A message for ALL MDIRSS Families

for Option A and Option B:

MDIRSS Schools are committed to the physical, social, emotional and academic well-being of our students. Supports for each are in place in all of our schools, and we are looking forward to providing rich learning opportunities for all of our students either in school, or virtually. Attendance and participation are critical. MDIRSS Schools are committed to student learning and growth. Clear expectations, assessment and traditional grading practices will be in place.

### MDIRSS Safe Return to School Survey -- Results appreciated by Monday, July 27th

- [Latest email update from Principal Haney and MDI High School](#) - Can check out books from MDIHS Library throughout the summer
- [Latest email update from Superintendent Marc Gousse](#) - Video Update
- [MDES Newsletter Link](#) 6/5
- [Mount Desert Elementary](#) \* Food for families
- [MDES Family Supports Form](#)

## Government News & Mandates & Resources

### [Governor Mills: Latest Updates](#) :

- [Maine DHHS Announces Four Additional “Swab and Send” COVID-19 Testing Sites To Protect Health of Students & Staff, Mills Administration Provides Public Health Guidance & Financial Support to School Systems Across Maine](#)
- [To Protect Health of Students & Staff, Mills Administration Provides Public Health Guidance & Financial Support to School Systems Across Maine](#)
- [Mills Administration Supports Child Care for Working Families with \\$8 Million Investment from Coronavirus Relief Fund](#)
- [Mills Administration on 2020 First Quarter Drug Overdose Report](#)
- [Mills Administration Announces Nearly 20 “Swab and Send” COVID-19 Testing Sites](#)
- [Governor Mills Proclaims Today Ashley Frederick Bryan Day](#)

[Representative Brian Hubbell's latest newsletter](#) : [Priorities to stabilize and support Maine's economy](#) 7/15

#### Other Government Resources

- [Maine DECD Website](#)
- [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#)
- [Maine Tourism Relief Fund](#)
- [The Small Business Association](#) Link to loan and grant forms: EIDL & PPP
- [CDC Guidelines](#)
- [Maine CDC](#)

## Community Resources

- [Healthy Acadia Newsletter](#) 7/21
- [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](#)
  - Preschool story time Mondays at 10am on their [FB page](#)
  - **Maine Interlibrary Loan is now active**
- [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](#)

## Mt. Desert Chamber of Commerce

- [Resource Lists for Businesses and Visitors](#)

## 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.

## Land & Garden Preserve

The Asticou Azalea Garden is now open each Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until at least early August.

Thuya Garden hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. Thuya Lodge will be closed for the 2020 season.

Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden will open July 30 through September 6. Thursday through Sunday between 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Little Long Pond, Asticou Landing, Terraces and Lookouts are open daily from dawn to dusk.

[Land & Garden Preserve.](#)

## Acadia National Park

- [See latest alert from ANP](#) : Current Conditions
  - The Park Loop Road and most hiking trails are open. Carriage roads are open, but beware of hazards. Park information is available outside at Hulls Cove Visitor Center. Campgrounds open no sooner than Aug 1.

## Mental Health Resources

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

For more information or to add to this resource page, please email: [manager@mtdesert.org](mailto:manager@mtdesert.org)