

Town of Mount Desert: Covid Update

July 30, 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 eight (8) positive tests to date.
 - 3 Hancock County , 5 other
- As of today 7/30/20, Maine CDC has confirmed twenty seven (27) positive cases in Hancock County.
- The current case rate for the State of Maine is 29 per 10k people
- The current case rate for Hancock County is 4.9 per 10k people

Here is an explanation of the large jump in Hancock County numbers from Hancock Emergency Management Agency Director Andrew Sankey:

Good afternoon.

It has been some time since I've offered an update relating to the COVID-19 pandemic that unfortunately remains part of our daily experience.

So as to dispel anecdotal, erroneous information from a variety of sources presently in circulation, I wish to share with you what is known to me regarding the circumstances surrounding the arrival earlier this week of migrant agricultural workers to Hancock County that have tested positive for COVID-19 .

As reported by media sources following the Maine CDC briefing on Tuesday afternoon, migrant workers from Florida arrived in Hancock County in support of the coming blueberry harvest. Testing of these persons was performed on-site by the Maine Mobile Health Program, (a component of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services) with five (5) positive cases being identified. Subsequently, these five individuals, as well as all other migrant passengers were relocated later on Monday to a facility in Bangor, whereby they remain to quarantine, receive shelter, and other related care needs.

As you're aware, the presence of migrant agricultural workers is a routine, annual occurrence in Hancock County, as is the employment of many other seasonal, foreign-sourced workers to assist with our region's tourism service sector needs. As we are fast approaching the beginning of the blueberry harvest and processing season, it is to be anticipated we will see additional arrivals of migrant workers, some of which, upon screening, may also result in a positive COVID-19 test.

I have inquired as to why, as remains the requirement for other visitors to Maine from some locations, the migrants were neither tested prior to arrival, nor the 14-day quarantine period provisioned. I also am seeking clarification as to why those testing positive are being listed statistically as being Hancock County residents, in contrast with past practice in all other cases, to-date. Regardless of the answers, we all remain focused upon the wellbeing of all persons, be they seasonal or year-round residents of Hancock County, as well as our temporary regional guests.

I've heightened sensitivity to any statements that may unintentionally cause confusion or otherwise somehow have an adverse consequence to the entirety of our business community, already under untoward economic pressures brought about by this season's irregularities due to COVID-19. This especially extends to our hospitality, retail, agricultural and fishing communities. We continue to receive guidance from Maine CDC and draw upon our pandemic planning to ensure we and all our Public Health and Public Safety partners are following best practices to keep COVID-19 a minimum risk here in Hancock County.

Should you have any questions or require additional information that may assist you in the performance of your duties, please contact me at your convenience; we're here to help. As always, thank you for your time, assistance and considerations; all is appreciated. Please remain both safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

Andrew X Sankey, Director

Hancock County Emergency Management Agency

[Maine Center for Disease Control](#)

Public Safety, Municipal & Hancock County News

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT PROPERTY OWNERS

- The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting is 8/3 at 4pm
 - [Click here for more information and the Zoom Link.](#)
- *Covid Updates* have changed from a Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule to a Tuesday, Thursday schedule.
- 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](#)
- [Latest email update from Principal Haney and MDI High School](#) - Preliminary results of Survey
- [MDI High School: Extra Curricular Physicals & Insurance Information](#)
- [Latest email update from Superintendent Marc Gousse](#) - August 10 : Final Recommendations for Return to School.
- [MDES Newsletter Link](#) 6/5
- [Mount Desert Elementary](#) * Food for families
- [MDES Family Supports Form](#)

Government News & Mandates & Resources

[Governor Mills: Latest Updates](#) :

- [Governor Mills & MaineHousing Expand Rental Relief Program to Help Prevent Evictions, Counter Reductions in Federal Unemployment Benefits](#)

- [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 : [Stabilizing the economy, climate action strategies, and public health measures 7/23/20](#)

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 7/28](#)
- [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

Downtown 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