

Town of Mount Desert: Covid Update

May 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.

The Governor's order requires Maine people to wear cloth face coverings in public places where physical distancing is difficult to maintain, as recommended by the U.S. CDC. The order identifies public settings as:

- Indoor spaces that are accessible to the public such as grocery stores, retail stores, pharmacies and healthcare facilities
- Outdoor spaces such as playgrounds, busy parking lots, and other areas such as lines for take-out service where the public typically gathers in a smaller area
- Public transportation such as a taxi, Uber, Lyft, ride-sharing or similar service
- Ferry, bus, or train
- Any semi-enclosed transit stop or waiting area
- Under the order, cloth face coverings are not required for children under age 2, a child in a child care setting, or for anyone who has trouble breathing or related medical conditions, or who is otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

*Maine Requires all visitors and returning residents to quarantine for 14 days.

[What does quarantine mean? Please click this link to see the answer to this question and many Maine CDC FAQ's](#)

Covid Transmission Update

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

As of today 5/8/20, Maine CDC has confirmed ten (10) 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 18th, 2020 at 4:00pm

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 May 5, 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, Wastewater Superintendent (in for the Public Works Director), Northeast Harbor Ambulance Service's (NEHAS) Service Chief, LEMD/Fire Chief, Town Clerk and Treasurer.

The EOC briefing began with a quick overview and assessment of the COVID-19 situation as reported by the Maine CDC. As of this briefing, there were 1150 confirmed COVID-19 infections in Maine, with 10 of those located in Hancock County. Maine is one of 28 states that are continuing to see a rise in confirmed cases. The majority of the confirmed cases remain in the southern part of the state, primarily in Cumberland and York counties. As a reminder, due to testing limitations and many infected individuals considered asymptomatic, the Maine CDC states that these numbers are most likely under reported.

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. The overall readiness or ability to maintain operations within the town government has changed little since the last EOC staff meeting. Below is each staff members report:

- **Town Manager (TM)** – The Town Office remains in a lockdown mode, with only staff allowed in the building. TM reported that staff has been planning and preparing for the eventual opening for business of the town office, in accordance with Governor Mills Executive Orders and Maine CDC guidelines. TM said the public will definitely see changes in the ways that staff will interact with customers, how queuing lines will establish to comply with social distancing, and the fact that both employees and patrons may be wearing appropriate PPE. The town office is expecting to open in June, in line with the Governor staged opening plan.
- **NEHAS** – No change in the NEHAS status. 24/7 staffing is ongoing. Additional N95 masks have been ordered so PPE inventory levels remain good. There has been a slight increase in call volume. Both staff and management are preparing for the expected increase in seasonal population in the next few months and how that may or may not impact day-to-day operations and readiness for the service.

- **Police Chief** – The Chief stated not much change from last week in the way of operations or PPE availability. As was indicated by the NEHAS report, they have seen a moderate increase in activity and calls in the area. Like most Town departments, the PD is making plans for the next phase of reopening. There was a question of the paid parking within Town and how to manage that going forward. The Chief said he will place that on the next Board of Selectmen's agenda for discussion and guidance.
- **Treasurer** - The Treasurer reports little change in the way of staffing or operations. Everything from payroll to quarantining mail before pick up by departments seems to be working ok. There is a need for additional PPE in the way of surgical type masks and protective gloves. Both NEHAS and FD indicated they could probably help them in obtaining these items.
- **Wastewater Superintendent (WS)** – The Public Works Director was unavailable for this briefing so the WS provided their status report. The WS indicated the status quo for Public Works and no change since last briefing. PPE supplies remain in good shape. Plans are being developed to start returning back to full staff levels on a daily basis in compliance with Maine CDC guidelines.
- **Harbormaster** – Harbormaster stated no change. Harbormaster and Deputy Harbormaster are still rotating work schedules to avoid interaction. Preparations are underway to start the summer season, although, like others, modifications will need to be implemented to be able to conduct marina business within recommended guidelines. PPE inventory is good for both full-time and returning seasonal employees. As protocol, staff's temperature will be monitored on a daily basis. The Harbormaster has completed Maine's COVID-19 Checklist Compliance Form and will be displaying the "COVID-19 Prevention " badge on their entrance door.
- **Fire Chief** – No significant change in operations within the Fire Department. The Chief said he plans to discontinue the present 24/7 staffing on May 17th. The fire stations will continue to be on lockdown in order to protect staff. Aggressive cleaning and decontamination procedures will also be maintained. Additional N95 masks and protective gloves were purchased to augment existing inventory. The current situation will be watched for any spikes or second wave of confirmed cases in our immediate area.
- **Town Clerk** – Town Clerk reports no real difference in continuity of operations. Like the TM, plans are underway for the eventual opening of the front office/customer service area of the municipal building. A request was made for any additional masks for staff to wear if necessary. Maybe more gloves too. The NEHAS and FD said they could help with this if needed. The TM has ordered some N95's for office staff which should be shipping in about 2 weeks.

The purpose of an EOC is to establish a central command and control facility responsible for carrying out the EOP functions at a strategic level during an emergency, and ensuring the continuity of government operations for the Town of Mount Desert. The LEMD reported that current continuity of operations for the Town is stable, and there seems to be no immediate danger to life or health for the general public. As a result, he felt there was no longer a need to have the EOC activated at its present level and should be stood down. The Board of Selectmen will be notified of the deactivating and, unless they direct the LEMD to keep it at its current level 3, will take effect following the last scheduled meeting on the 12th. This action will coincide with the expected expiration of Governor's Mills declared State of Emergency for the State on May 15th. The existing situation will be monitored closely for any signs of increased activity or confirmed/reported cases which may necessitate reactivation of the EOC.

Next weekly EOC Staff briefing will be on Tuesday, May 12th beginning at 0900 hours.

From Director Andrew Sankey, Hancock County Emergency Management Agency

Hancock County COVID-19 briefing:

As of today, 03 May, there are two (2) active COVID-19 cases assigned to Hancock County, with one (1) of these remaining hospitalized. *Please note: As stipulated by Maine CDC, a person that tests positive for COVID-19 that claims Maine/Hancock County residency is recorded statistically as Hancock County, though they in fact may be physically located, (or hospitalized), either elsewhere in Maine, or out-of-state.*

I offer the following update information for your situational awareness:

Attached you'll please find a four-page, fact sheet published by FEMA that has much information regarding the reopening of businesses, government offices and the resumption of fully conducting agency operations. Its guidelines are planning recommendations to allow for the safe and efficient reconstitution of services in conjunction with the relaxing of distancing practices. You may find this information useful as you consider your organization's policies and practices as circumstances and requirements change.

FEMA has scheduled a webinar presentation to assist those of you seeking reimbursement for your organization's COVID-19 response expenses. The instructions for joining the webinar, scheduled online three-times daily, May 4th through May 8th, is also found attached.

And MEMA is conducting a live, online informational session as well, on Wednesday, May 6th, 10AM- 12PM. You may access it by clicking [here](#): It is our understanding that this session is to be recorded, archived, and viewable online following.

In last week's message, I inadvertently provided a broken link to the COVID-19 daily data update published by the City of Bangor. To access this tool on mobile devices, please use this (corrected) link: <https://arcg.is/5qGGr>; I apologize for any inconvenience. Several folks shared they found this site's graphics and data very useful.

We continue to receive, aggregate and forward PPE requests onto the logistics decision makers in Augusta for their determinations. While the tiered priority focus throughout Maine remains congregate living facilities such as nursing homes due to the risks and high incidences of spread, we locally are now fielding inquiries and requisitions from other sectors resuming operations, such as dental practices. Please know however that at the present time, private healthcare practices are not considered a priority to receive state-issued PPE. We welcome these requests but would prefer we could be certain of a favorable outcome in seeing them fulfilled. And for all requesting parties, the dual prerequisites of compliance with a written and applied Respiratory Protection Plan ("RPP") as well as mask fit testing remain fully in force. Should your facility require assistance in fulfilling either or both of these requirements, please get in touch.

We remain focused on assuring Hancock County's First Responder personnel, many of them volunteers, have the tools and information essential to see them remain safe and healthy in the conduct of their always challenging duties, made even more so due to the pandemic. Others that have taken on new roles, or more accurately, conducting their roles in a new manner are also a focus. Noteworthy examples are those preparing and those delivering school meals to Hancock County's students, as are the MaineDOT personnel that are transporting and delivering PPE orders from Augusta throughout Maine; the quantities and frequency is assuredly considerable.

Thank you for your time, considerations and kindnesses rendered this past week and in the week ahead. Feel free to call upon us should you have need; we remain a ready-resource throughout.

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. The Island Explorer is a propane-powered, fare-free transit system that serves Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. In 2019, the bus system carried more than 648,000 passengers. Service would normally begin June 23rd on Mount Desert Island and Memorial Day weekend on the Schoodic Peninsula, and run through Columbus Day.

MDI Hospital

[16 Ways to Help Reduce Covid Anxiety](#)

[Nutrition during Covid 19](#)

[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 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](#)

See WABI coverage of [Northeast Harbor businesses getting a boost from summer residents](#)

Announcing : Summer Residents Association Covid-19 Relief Fund

I have some very good news: the Summer Residents Association of the Town of Mount Desert (commonly known as the SRA) is rolling out a program to make grants to local retailers, restaurants, and tourism-driven businesses that are hard hit by the Covid-19 crisis.

I've been working with the SRA board for the past several weeks, first to distribute a survey to help better understand what kinds of help would be most meaningful to our small businesses, and then to design a program to deliver relief. The survey was a real help (I suspect many of you responded - thanks!) and I think the program will make a real difference to many of you.

The SRA has created a website that explains the program and accepts applications. I urge you to take a look, review the guidelines, and consider submitting an application.

www.SRATMD.org

You can direct any questions to me or to John Boynton, SRA board member, at jb@123neh.com

Thanks,

Micki Sumpter

207-276-5040

Pine Tree Market

PTM reports today that customers should use the backdoor and the back parking lot due to all the construction happening on Main Street.

PTM is well stocked and happy to report that they have many items (toilet paper, chicken, and pork tenderloin) that are hard to get elsewhere.

Pine Tree Market is 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: 25% 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 and even has hand sanitizer and disposable gloves for sale.

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, **\$2.54** 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

Curbside Pickup is now available for prescriptions, please call the pharmacy for details [\(207\) 288-0421](tel:207-288-0421)

Beginning May 10th, Hannaford will begin to reopen the deli and seafood service cases. They ask customers to be patient as they pilot a system that supports social distancing. Customers should not expect to see our full variety immediately, but it will improve over the coming weeks.

Hannaford store hours are 7am-8pm daily until May 9th.

On May 10th, Hours will change to 7am - 9pm daily.

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

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.

[To those who are looking for work: Hannaford is currently hiring.](#)

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.

Beginning the week of April 20, 2020 the Natural Lands team will begin an erosion control project along the southeastern side of Little Long Pond. The lower carriage road leading to the Boathouse will be seeded and closed to visitors for the next six weeks. Please do not go beyond any fencing and signage to allow new grass the necessary time for proper germination.

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 @ Pemetie). 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

- [The First: Jon Nicholson & Tony McKim Payroll Protection Plan “Wrap Up” video from 5/5](#)
- 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 & Resources

[Governor Mills: Latest Updates](#) : Governor Announces May Opening Dates for Restaurant and Retail Businesses in 12 counties

[Here are the opening details and checklists outlined by the State of Maine](#)

[Representative Brian Hubbell's latest newsletter and resource list : 4/30/20 Newsletter Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#)

[Maine Tourism Relief Fund](#) : Apply For Assistance beginning May 5

Unemployment Experience Requested: Below are the emails for the Maine Labor Committee. You are encouraged to let them know your or your employees' experience with the unemployment system—what is helpful about the website, what worked well, or what problems or challenges existed.

Shenna.Bellows@Legislature.Maine.gov Stacey.Guerin@legislature.maine.gov
Mark.Lawrence@Legislature.Maine.gov Michael.Sylvester@Legislature.Maine.gov
Sue.Austin@legislature.maine.gov Richard.Bradstreet@Legislature.Maine.gov
Anne.Carney@Legislature.Maine.gov Scott.Cuddy@Legislature.Maine.gov
Donna.Doore@legislature.maine.gov Lawrence.Lockman@legislature.maine.gov
Joshua.Morris@Legislature.Maine.gov Deane.Rykerson@legislature.maine.gov
Ralph.Tucker@legislature.maine.gov

[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