Town of Mount Desert: Covid Update

10/01/2020 / 4 pm / Town Manager's Office

Mask. Distance. Wash Hands. Repeat.

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.

Covid Transmission Update

- **MDI Hospital confirmed that they have had 10 positive tests to date.**
    - **5 Hancock County , 5 other (visitors/non residents)**
- **As of today 10/01/20, Maine CDC has confirmed 54 positive cases in Hancock County.**
- **The current case rate for the State of Maine is 40.6 per 10k people**
- **The current case rate for Hancock County is 9.9 per 10k people**
- There was a positive Covid -19 test two weeks ago at the MDI hospital that was confirmed to be a Bar Harbor resident. During the Covid-19 Downeast Task Force meeting, the hospital said the community should not be concerned, but are reluctant to say too much because of privacy issues. Dr. JR Krevans said, "If you have not heard from the CDC by now you should have nothing to worry about.". Dr. Julian Kuffler added, "Everything worked the way it was supposed to work with a positive test; cooperation among agencies, contact tracing, patient care and it appears to be contained." He cautioned that you don't want people to be unwilling to come forward with symptoms because they are afraid of the public's reaction.
- Other news- COA has done 880 covid tests on staff, faculty and students. Only one test was positive but that was a student who was positive in April and is still giving off antibodies. This person has completely recovered from the virus.
- The MDI Hospital Covid testing tent will come down on October 15th.

Maine Center for Disease Control

Public Safety, Municipal & Hancock County News

- **The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be 10/5 at 4pm on Zoom**

    - https://zoom.us/j/248566175
    - Meeting ID: 248 566 175
- There will be a drive-thru Flu Shot Clinic on 10/8 from 1-3 pm at the Mount Desert Nursing Association in NEH. More details to come.
- The Main Street Village Improvement Project will begin in October after Indigenous People's Day.

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**

Dr. JR Krevans of MDI Hospital answers the question, "Why should I get a flu shot this year?"

First is that Flu is a serious illness in many, frequently with days of severe illness and weeks of recovery. In some (young children, elderly, pregnant, and those with pre-existing conditions) it is more likely to cause hospitalization, respiratory failure, and death. By getting a flu shot we protect ourselves and also those we care about in our homes, work, and community.

Second, there is reason to believe that having the flu and COVID simultaneously, or one shortly after the other would be very severe. Both these viruses suppress the ability of the body to fight other infections, and both create significant breathing problems. We will have more data about this by next spring, but I don't want to be one of the ones who finds out for sure.

Third is that because of the risks of COVID, anyone with Flu symptoms (even minor) will need to be quarantined and tested for COVID before being cleared to return to work, school, or the community. This would also apply to their household contacts. By getting vaccinated for the flu, you decrease the chance of having both you and those around you unnecessarily quarantined this winter.

The flu shot is very safe; it cannot cause influenza. Yes, the Flu shot is only partially effective; it does not prevent strains not included in this year's mix and it is not perfect in preventing infection. It does, however, reduce the incidence of disease markedly in a community, especially if health care workers, teachers, and the young healthy people who circulate the most are vaccinated. Please each of us do our part to minimize the burden of influenza in this difficult coming year.

School Information: Mt. Desert Elementary & MDI High School

- **MDES requests donations of Lysol and Clorox Wipes**

School Emails & Websites:

- Mount Desert Island Regional School System

- **Latest email update from Principal Haney and MDI High School : 9/30 Schedule change for weeks of 10/5 and 10/12**
    - MDI High School: Extra Curricular Physicals & Insurance Information
- Latest email update from Superintendent Marc Gousse 9/20 Update on voluntary staff testing
- **MDES Newsletter Link**
    - **9/28 Updated Newsletter with procedures and vital information**

Government News & Mandates & Resources

Governor Mills: Latest Updates :

- To Protect the Health of Students and Staff, Governor Mills Announces Additional Financial Support for School Systems Across Maine 9/23
- PUC Announces Selections in Largest Procurement of Renewable Energy in Maine's History Under Law Signed by Governor Mills 9/22
- Governor Mills Announces Phase 2 of Maine Economic Recovery Grant Program Funding for Expanded Pool of Maine Businesses & Non-Profits 9/22
- Governor Mills Signs Curtailment Order to Maintain Budget Stability Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Representative Brian Hubbell's latest newsletter : Scientific assessment of what is in store for Maine from climate change 9/14/20

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 9/29**
- Mount Desert 365 & Mount Desert 365 Resource Spreadsheet Open Table MDI – Building Community, One Meal at a Time
- Northeast Harbor Library
    - Preschool story time Mondays at 10am on their FB page
    - **Maine Interlibrary Loan is now active**
- Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce

Ways to Help

- MDI Nonprofit Alliance : Share Our Stimulus

- MDI Community Helpers
- Island Connections

Mt. Desert Chamber of Commerce

- Resource Lists for Businesses and Visitors

Acadia National Park

- **See latest alert from ANP : Current Conditions | Park Campgrounds will remain closed for the 2020 season.**
- **Vehicle Reservations will be required from 10/1-10/18 Click for more information**

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

Land & Garden Preserve.

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