

Town of Mount Desert: Covid Update

May 4, 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 is the difference between isolation and quarantine? What is involved? (4/29 from Maine.gov)

- Self-quarantine means that you need to separate yourself from others because you may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus but are not currently symptomatic.
 - Self-isolation means that you need to separate yourself from others because you may be infected with the COVID-19 virus and you are experiencing symptoms.
 - Self-monitoring means that you need to pay attention to your health to note if you develop symptoms of COVID- 19, including fever, cough, or difficulty breathing
- For both self-quarantine and self-isolation:

- Stay Home.
 - You cannot go to public places even for essential reasons, including grocery stores. Plan to have 14 days of food available or arrange to have it delivered to you.
 - Do not have visitors in your home.
 - Avoid Contact With Others, especially those who are at high risk of severe COVID-19 illness.
 - Keep a distance of at least 6 feet from other people.
 - If you are sick, wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth.
- During self-quarantine, you can have contact with other members of your household.
 - During self-isolation, you should avoid having contact with other members of your household as much as possible.
 - These are different from the Stay Healthy at Home Order.
 - The Stay at Home order allows you to go out for essential personal reasons.
 - If you are self-quarantining or self-isolating, you cannot leave your house for essential personal reasons.

Covid Transmission Update

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

As of today 5/4/20, 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

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.

EOC REPORT

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 28, 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 a quick overview and assessment of the COVID-19 situation as reported by the Maine CDC. As of this briefing, there were over 1000 confirmed COVID-19 infections in Maine, with 9 of those located within Hancock County. It was noted that confirmed cases in the State are continuing to rise. The rate of those new cases are fluctuating daily, with some days only seeing single number increases, and other days between 20 and 30 of newly identified cases. The LEMD also suggested staff should start thinking about what changes each department may need to adopt once the Town begins to shift to a post-pandemic phase of operations.

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 except for the foyer area. No noticeable changes in operations or readiness since last EOC briefing. TM agreed with the assessment of how changes may be necessary in the way the Town conducts business once the Governor starts to lift the Executive Orders. There also has been a modest increase in General Assistance requests.
- NEHAS - The Service Chief indicated nothing new to report. 2 attendants working 24/7 shifts continue, primarily out of the Seal Harbor fire station. PPE stock is still good. There was some discussion in how the anticipated upsurge of travelers to the area in the coming months may or may not impact local first responder resources.
- Police Chief – The Police Chief reports that staffing and PPE is still good. PD received some additional PPE from the hospital which they could not use. Training is ongoing for Maine Criminal Justice Academy (MCJA) cadets with our own local instructors so they can complete their 18 week course as scheduled. The MCJA discontinued live classes last month due to the pandemic. Staff is still fielding calls in respect to questions about the Executive Orders.
- Treasurer - The Treasurer reports little change in the way of staffing or operations. AP, payroll, etc. still continue to proceed smoothly despite the adjustments in how they're handled. One additional full-time employee has now returned to working in the office a few days a week.

- Public Works Director – The Public Works (PW) Director informed the group of no change in staffing and operations in both the PW and Wastewater divisions. Additional disinfectant for staff was able to be acquired, some of which was shared with the Marina staff.
- Harbormaster – Harbormaster reports no difference in staffing levels. Both the Harbormaster and Deputy Harbormaster are maintaining their rotating shift schedules. Harbormaster indicated he is looking to acquire some PPE for seasonal employees once they are allowed to start work. LEMD asked if seasonal staff would have started by now if it was not for the COVID-19 situation. The Harbormaster indicated during a typical spring season they would have had some seasonal workers employed at this point, so they are about 2 weeks behind a normal schedule.
- Fire Chief – The Fire Department is extending its 24/7 staffing into May, with an evaluation of the current model done around May 15th. FD is maintaining essential operations. PPE kits were compiled and distributed on all the apparatus. Additional gloves were added to the Fire Department's PPE stockpile. Weekly teleconference calls with other MDI fire chiefs are continuing on a weekly basis.
- 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.

Governor Mills held a news briefing a few hours after our morning teleconference in which she outlined her plan to gradually reopen the State beginning on Friday, May 1st. She has extended the State's stay-at-home order in the form of a new "Stay Safer at Home" Executive Order. These were based on epidemiological data signifying that the State is starting to "flatten the curve". The strategy is to progress through 4 measured stages, with each stage occurring month-by-month, depending on the success of previous stages. But, "if Maine CDC detects a resurgence of the virus, the State will move quickly to halt progression through the stages and reimplement restrictions". My recommendation to the Board is that the Town of Mount Desert mirror these progressions in a similar fashion, but on a smaller, more local scale. At least for the first 2 weeks in May, the EOC will track confirmed cases in Hancock County as reported by the Maine CDC. Any spike in numbers should be evaluated and may require additional measures taken to protect Town employees and ensure the Town's continuity of operations. This is especially true when our seasonal population begins to increase as we approach the summer months.

Next weekly EOC Staff briefing will be on Tuesday, May 5th beginning at 0900 hours.

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](#)

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 the store is as well supplied as ever, and that they have hand sanitizer in stock, and got a giant delivery today.

Carts and baskets are washed after each use.

Hours are 8am to 8pm Everyday.

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 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, **\$2.54** 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)

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 @ 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

- [The First: Jon Nicholson & Tony McKim Payroll Protection Plan “Wrap Up” 5/5 at 11am](#)
- 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](#) : [Phases for Restarting Maine's Economy](#)

[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

[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