

Town of Bar Harbor: Covid Update

PLEASE WEAR A MASK!

August 6, 2020 / 4 pm / Town Manager's Office

Town Manager Question of the Week:

Q. Why doesn't Bar Harbor have a mask ordinance requiring everyone to wear a mask?

A. Here are the reasons why Bar Harbor does not currently have a mask ordinance.

The Executive Order from the Governor gives Law Enforcement the ability to apply the law when needed though, the State of Maine recommends education over enforcement for mask wearing. To encourage mask wearing and support businesses in their efforts, the Town of Bar Harbor has placed signage throughout the downtown, provided signs for businesses that read "No Mask, No Service", and continues to provide 1,200 free masks per day to anyone who needs them.

Since the mask program began in early July, compliance has steadily improved and is considered to be going very well according to Dr. Julius Krevans of MDI Hospital who is on the Covid 19 Task Force. Last week he wrote to Council saying the following,

I want to congratulate your team for an incredibly effective job changing the culture of mask wearing in downtown Bar Harbor. Over the past two weeks there has been a marked increase in mask wearing, and now almost all (over 90% by quick survey on three occasions) persons on the central streets of Bar Harbor are wearing masks.

Currently, the courts are moving very slowly and not processing violations such as mask wearing infractions, so in an effort to increase compliance Bar Harbor will continue to monitor mask wearing and work to improve the signage and strategies that will improve an already successful program. If through steady monitoring it is seen to no longer be successful, the Council has the option to revisit the adoption of a mask ordinance.

The Town of Bar Harbor 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, NJ, NY, CT 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 (not Bar Harbor residents)
 - 5 (non-residents)
- As of today 8/6/20, Maine CDC has confirmed thirty five (35) positive cases in Hancock County.
- The current case rate for the State of Maine is 29.9 per 10k people
- The current case rate for Hancock County is 6.4 per 10k people
- There have been zero (0) positive tests in Bar Harbor.

[Maine Center for Disease Control](#)

Public Safety & Municipal News

- Bar Harbor Covid Updates are now published on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Town Council meets next on 8/18 at 4pm
 - Can be viewed live at townhallstreams.com or on Spectrum Cable channel 1303
- Election recount from 8/1 upheld the original results of the election.

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. 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**

[8/1/20 Press Release - Covid 19 Public Service Announcement](#)

School Information: Connors Emerson & MDI High School

Consistent with our planning framework we have scheduled the following meetings for the MDIRSS AOS # 91 School Board.

- Thursday, August 6th - 5:30 pm AOS Board/Admin Team (*in person for board/admin*) workshop @ MDIHS (Auditorium) - *PPE and physical distancing required. Public access to this workshop will be provided via youtube link as we must remain under the 50 person limit at all times.* <https://www.youtube.com/user/MDIHSTrojanTV>

- Monday, August 10th - 5:30 pm AOS Board Meeting (*in person*) @ MDIHS (Auditorium) -*PPE and physical distancing required. Public access to this workshop will be provided via youtube link as we must remain under the 50 person limit at all times.*

[USDA Pandemic EBT program](#)

School Emails and Websites

- <http://www.mdirss.org/>
- [Latest email update from Principal Haney and MDI High School - Preliminary Concepts for return to school.](#)
- [MDI High School: Extra Curricular Physicals & Insurance Information](#)
- [Latest email update from Conners Emerson School - Preliminary Plan 7/31](#)
- [Latest email update from Superintendent Marc Gousse -](#)
 - [August 6 : Workshop](#)
 - [August 10 : Final Recommendations for Return to School.](#)

Government News & Mandates

[Governor Mills: Latest Updates :](#)

- [As Maine Seeks to Maintain Relatively Low Virus Spread, Governor Mills Renews State of Civil Emergency](#)
- [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](#)
- [Mills Administration Supports Child Care for Working Families with \\$8 Million Investment from Coronavirus Relief Fund](#)

Representative Brian Hubbell's latest newsletter : [Stabilizing the economy, climate action strategies, and public health measures 7/23/20](#)

Other Government Resources:

- [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
- [CDC Guidelines](#)
- [Maine CDC](#)

Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce

If you have ideas that would help Bar Harbor businesses during this time, please email concepts to Chamber Director Alf Anderson: alf@barharborinfo.com

Includes resource lists for visitors and businesses

<https://www.visitbarharbor.com/member-center-coronavirus-resources>

Community Resources

- [Healthy Acadia Newsletter 8/4](#)
- [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.
- [Jesup Memorial Library Interlibrary Loan is now active in Maine](#)
- [Mount Desert 365 Resource Spreadsheet](#) is a resource list for all of MDI
- [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](#) : share stimulus money with local nonprofits.
- [MDI Community Helpers](#)
- [Island Connections](#)

Acadia National Park

[See latest alert from ANP : Current Conditions |](#)

Park Campgrounds will remain closed for the 2020 season.

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.](#)

Mental Health

[National Alliance on Mental Illness Maine](#)

[Maine DHHS - Hotlines/Crisis Numbers](#)

[Crisis Services](#)

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.

For more information or to add to this resource page, please email: nina@barharbormaine.gov