

# Town of Bar Harbor: Covid Update

**April 1, 2020 / 4 pm / Town Manager's Office**

The Town of Bar Harbor expects residents and visitors alike to abide by CDC recommendations for social distancing, isolation, and handwashing. Abiding by these recommendations will help protect our island community.

**Today in the Maine CDC briefing Dr. Shah said, "The only vaccine we have for this disease is social distancing."**

**Now that we have a confirmed case within our county it is important, now more than ever, that we go out as little as possible. This is the time to limit exposure to other people as much as possible.**

## Covid Transmission Update

**MDI Hospital confirmed that they have had two (2) positive tests to date.**

**As of today 4/1/20, Maine CDC has confirmed one (1) case in Hancock County.**

Dr. Shah, Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control, emphasized that we should act as though it is active within our own community.

Shah cautioned that the depth and breadth of the coronavirus outbreak is not yet known in Maine and that just because his agency has not confirmed a case in a given county does not mean it has yet to spread there.

[Maine Center for Disease Control](#)

## Public Safety & Municipal News

**The next Town Council meeting will be 4/7 at 4:00 PM on [townhallstreams.com](http://townhallstreams.com) or live cable channel 1303**

**Town of Bar Harbor buildings, schools, restrooms, and playgrounds are closed to the public until 4/30.**

**BAR HARBOR SUSPENDS LODGING :** At a special Town Council meeting held March 30, the Bar Harbor Town Council voted - in the interest of public safety, and to preserve the success of the town's summer season - to suspend all occupancy of transient accommodations, vacation rentals and campgrounds for non-essential travel effective Wednesday, April 8 through

Thursday, April 30, 2020. This suspension is specifically effective within the municipal boundaries of Bar Harbor for the time period noted.

Town Council, Planning Board, and Design Review Board may hold meetings for regular business via video conference.

If you have purchased a vehicle or trailer in a private sale and need a temporary registration, please [click here](#)

The Town of Bar Harbor is working in conjunction with MDI Hospital, Fire, Police, CDC, and John Lennon, the Bar Harbor Public Health Officer to ensure the safety of the community. This working group is called the Emergency Operations Committee

The Fire and Police Departments continue to take precautions to limit transmission among emergency personnel.

## MDI Hospital

**BAR HARBOR**—As of Wednesday, April 1, there have been 344 confirmed cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, reported in Maine. To date, Mount Desert Island Hospital has collected samples for 168 tests. Of these tests, 71 are still pending results, 93 have come back negative, two were untested due to specimen compromise and two have been confirmed positive by the Maine Center for Disease Control.

MDI Hospital's second confirmed positive case to date is a resident of Hancock County who was tested at the hospital's central outpatient access point outside of the Cooper Gilmore Health Center. The patient is now isolated at home in accordance with CDC guidelines. "We are doing everything we can to support the community in preventing the spread of this virus, and we continue to urge community members to follow the guidance of the CDC and to practice social distancing, vigilant hand-washing and respiratory hygiene," said MDI Hospital President/CEO Arthur J. Blank.

COVID-19 causes flu-like symptoms such as fever, dry cough and shortness of breath. Most cases are mild to moderate. Older adults and people with pre-existing medical conditions may experience more severe respiratory illness. If you are having symptoms or think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, call your primary care provider's office or MDI Hospital's 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.

In the event of an emergency, MDI Hospital's Emergency Room can be reached at (207) 288-8439. Notifying the emergency room will prepare hospital staff to better anticipate your specific needs and allow for a coordinated arrival.

MDI Hospital Coronavirus Call Center

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Remember: **PLEASE CALL AHEAD**

**As of 3/27/2020 MDI Hospital has suspended visitation. There are several exceptions, please visit this website to learn more.**

[MDI Hospital Covid Updates](#)

## Hannaford

**In an effort to reduce exposure to Covid 19 for all, Hannaford is making changes to in-store practices.**

**At this time, reusable bags are still allowed however management encourages the use of plastic bags as a method of reducing the risk to staff and customers alike.**

**Carts will be stored outside and there will be a queuing line that will keep customers 6 feet apart.**

**No more than 50 people are allowed inside the store at any one time, so please limit the number of shoppers per household.**

**Hannaford asks that you remain behind the plexiglass while in the check out line, and to honor the 6 foot marks on the floors for personal space.**

**There are small cash boxes at each register used for exchanging cash and limiting hand to hand contact.**

**Hannaford appreciates how considerate customers have been and wants to thank customers for their continued goodwill inside the store.**

Hannaford is working hard to keep groceries and supplies on the shelves while maintaining a high level of sanitation to protect staff and customers.

Hannaford has dedicated the hour from 6-7 AM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays as a specific shopping time for our elderly (60 plus) and those who are immunocompromised.

They are open 7 days a week from 7am to 9pm for all other patrons.

Store manager Jay Boyce reports that the quietest times at the store continue to be 10am-2pm and 4pm-9pm and that he is pleased that many items are back in stock and able to be maintained.

## Acadia National Park

[See latest alert from ANP](#)

## Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce

Includes resource lists for visitors and businesses

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

## School Information: Conners Emerson & MDI High School

The Atlantic Oceanside is providing a **Free Lunch for the students** of families in need, while school provided meals are unavailable [lunchinbarharbor.com](http://lunchinbarharbor.com)

<http://www.mdirss.org/>

[Latest email update from Principal Haney MDI Highschool](#)

[Latest email update from Conners Emerson School](#) \* latest on backpack program

[Latest email update from Superintendent Marc Gousse](#)

## Community Resources

\* [Jon Nicholson and Tony McKim from the The First in Bar Harbor will be doing a FaceBook Live event to help residents and businesses navigate the latest stimulus package : Thursday 4/2/20 at 3:30 pm](#)

[Jesup Memorial Library](#) educational resources

[Mt. 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](#)

[Paradis True Value](#) is doing curbside pick-up with ordering and payment processing for those who do not wish to enter the store.

### Volunteer Opportunities

[MDI Community Helpers](#)

[Island Connections](#)

## Government News & Mandates

[Latest From Maine Governor Janet Mills](#)

# Governor Mills Issues Stay Healthy at Home Mandate

March 31, 2020

**Also orders a series of additional requirements to protect public health and safety in the face of COVID-19**

Governor Janet Mills today issued a series of substantial new mandates to protect public health and safety in the face of COVID-19, including a Stay Healthy at Home directive that requires people living in Maine to stay at home at all times unless for an essential job or an essential personal reason, such as obtaining food, medicine, health care, or other necessary purposes.

**The Governor also mandated a series of other new restrictions, including:**

- For essential businesses and operations that remain open, limiting the number of customers in their buildings at any one time, implementing curbside pickup and delivery options as much as possible, and enforcing U.S. CDC-recommended physical distancing requirements for their customers and employees in and around their facilities.
- Prohibiting the use of public transportation unless for an essential reason or job that cannot be done from home and limiting the number of people traveling in private vehicles to persons within the immediate household unless transporting for essential activities.
- Mandating the continued termination of classroom or other in-person instruction until at least May 1, 2020.
- Mandating that, when out of the home or when at work at an essential business, individuals shall maintain a minimum distance of six feet from other persons.

The Executive Order takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on April 2, 2020 and will last until at least April 30, 2020. The Governor may amend, rescind, or renew this timeline at her discretion. The Governor also extended the closure of restaurants and bars statewide for dine-in customers until at least April 30, 2020 to align with today's Executive Order.

"We are in the midst of one of the greatest public health crises this world has seen in more than a century. This virus will continue to sicken people across our state; our cases will only grow, and more people will die. I say this to be direct, to be as honest with you as I can. Because saving lives will depend on us," said Governor Mills. "I implore you – look to yourself, your family, your friends, your loved ones, your neighbors on the front lines, first responders and health care workers fighting the

virus, those who can't stay home; the children who live around the corner, the farmer who grows your food, the grocer and the pharmacist who sell you goods, the teachers who are missing their kids; the fisherman, the sailor, the truck driver, the janitor, the waitress at your favorite diner; these are the people you are protecting by staying home. This is who you are saving.”

## The Governor's Executive Order enacts the following:

### Stay Healthy at Home Directive

Governor Mills' "Stay Healthy at Home" Executive Order requires that Maine people remain at home unless to leave for an essential job or an essential activity.

Essential jobs are defined under Governor Mills' [March 24 Executive Order](#) outlining essential businesses and operations.

Essential personal activities include the following with relation to an individual, their family, household members, pets, or livestock:

1. Obtaining necessary supplies for household consumption or use, such as groceries, and supplies and equipment needed to work from home, laundry, and products needed to maintain safety, sanitation, and essential maintenance of the home or residence.
2. Obtaining medication or medical supplies and seeking medical or behavioral health or emergency services.
3. Providing care, including transportation, of oneself, a family member, friend, pet or livestock in another household or location for essential health and safety activities and to obtain necessary supplies and services.
4. Traveling to and from an educational institution for purposes of receiving meals or instructional materials for distance learning.
5. Engaging in outdoor exercise activities, such as walking, hiking, running, or biking, but, only in compliance with the social gathering restriction in Executive Order 14 and all applicable social distancing guidance published by the U.S. and Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
6. Travel required by a law enforcement officer or court order; and
7. Traveling to and from a federal, State, or local government building for a necessary purpose.

### Travel Restrictions

The Order prohibits the use of public transportation unless for an essential reason or job that cannot be done from home and limits the number of people traveling in private vehicles to persons within the immediate household unless transporting for essential personal activities.

## Termination of In-Person Instruction at Schools

Public and private schools and higher education institutions statewide have terminated in-classroom instruction in accordance with the Governor's March 15 recommendation. The Governor today ordered that all such schools shall continue to cease classroom or other in-person instruction until at least May 1, 2020, or until further Order.

## Restricting Number of People in Essential Stores

Governor Mills' Executive Order restricts the number of people allowed at essential businesses at any one time, mandates that they conduct as much business as possible by curbside order and pick up or delivery to limit in-person contact, and enforce physical distancing in and around their facilities by prominently posting signs at public entrances and on the floor to notify customers to stay six-feet apart. It also requires that they disinfect the handles of every cart and basket between uses, minimize customer handling of unpurchased merchandise and offer separate operating hours for Maine people over the age of 60 and those with underlying medical conditions.

### Under the Executive order, essential stores with retail spaces of:

- *Less than 7,500 square feet limit the number of customers in the store at one time to 5.* Examples of such stores include gas stations and convenience and specialty food stores.
- *More than 7,500 and less than 25,000 square feet limit the number of customers in the store at one time to 15.* Examples of such stores include stand-alone pharmacies and certain hardware stores.
- *More than 25,000 and less than 50,000 square feet limit the number of customers in the store at one time to 50.* Examples of such stores include mid-sized and locally owned grocery stores.
- *More than 50,000 and less than 75,000 square feet limit the number of customers in the store at one time to 75.* Examples of such stores include chain grocery stores.
- *More than 75,000 square feet limit the number of customers in the store at one time to 100 and install protective shields between customers and checkout clerks as soon as practicable.* Examples of such stores include Lowe's, Wal-Mart, Target and Home Depot.

Retailers must enforce these limits and a six-foot separation between any customers waiting in lines. Any essential business which violates this Order will be subject to further on-site restrictions or closure until those violations are addressed. These new requirements adjust and mandate prior recommendations from the Governor regarding essential businesses and operations.

## Preemption

The Order preempts any local ordinance or emergency order of the same subject matter that is less restrictive than or otherwise inconsistent with this Order.

## Enforcement

This Order shall be enforced by law enforcement as necessary and violations are a class E crime subject to up to six months in jail and a \$1000 fine. In addition, compliance with Section IV of this Order may also be enforced by government officials who regulate licenses, permits or any other authorization to operate a business or occupy a building. It is the Governor's hope that compliance will be voluntary, and that formal enforcement will not be necessary.

[CDC Guidelines](#)

[Maine CDC](#)

For more information or to add to this resource page, please email: [nina@barharbormaine.gov](mailto:nina@barharbormaine.gov)