

Town of Bar Harbor: Covid Update

Mask. Distance. Wash Hands. Repeat.

November 19, 2020 / 4:00 pm / Town Manager's Office

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.

Town Manager Question of the Week

Q: Why are we now seeing such an increase in Covid-19 cases on the island when there were very few throughout the summer?

A: From Julius Krevans, MD of Mount Desert Island Hospital.

*We are seeing transmission between locals now that the virus is established in the community. In the summer, most outsiders were healthy travelers and had limited indoor interactions with unmasked people. There have been a series of superspreader events in Maine during the late summer and early fall, which, along with other transmission, introduced the virus more widely into the community. People are indoors more now, and often unmasked with friends or co-workers with closed doors and windows. It takes a very small change in "Re" (number infected by average case), from less than one to more than one, to shift from **control** to **spread**. Think of the difference between an account that has a monthly fee and no interest ($Re < 1$) and compounded gains ($Re > 1$), except transmission cycle is weekly, not yearly, and instead of gaining money you gain illness.*

I think that most people do not realize how extraordinary our town's performance (and some good fortune) this summer as a community was, and we need to recognize that we still are the second most controlled state in the nation even with the latest events. Currently, many states with similar demographics and economies but different ethos are having massive deaths, overloading their health care systems, and are using freezer trucks to store the bodies. I think we can avoid that if we choose.

We need to limit indoor interactions, wear face masks any time we share breathing space, keep shared spaces ventilated, and follow quarantine and isolation protocols if we are sick or exposed. There will be effective medications and vaccines available soon, and we need to hang in there for a few more months.

Covid Transmission Update

- MDI Hospital confirmed that they have had 25 positive tests to date.
 - 25 Hancock County residents
 - 6 (non-residents)
- As of today 11/19/20, Maine CDC has confirmed 192 positive cases in Hancock County. This is an increase of 55 cases since 11/12.
- The current case rate for the State of Maine is 72.7 per 10k people
- The current case rate for Hancock County is 35 per 10k people

[Maine Center for Disease Control](#)

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**

Public Safety & Municipal News

- The Town Office will be closed Thursday and Friday 11/26 and 11/27
- The next Town Council meeting will be held on 12/1 at 5pm and can be viewed on Cable Channel 7 or 1303 and streamed on [Townhallstreams.com](#)
- [Walgreens pharmacy in Ellsworth is offering free drive-through rapid COVID-19 antigen testing to people experiencing symptoms of the virus.](#)
- Masks will continue to be delivered to area businesses in need. Please email nina@barharbormaine.gov if your business needs masks.

School Information: Conners Emerson & MDI High School

- School Emails and Websites
 - <http://www.mdirss.org/>
- [Latest email update from Principal Haney and MDI High School](#) : Chalk Talk Update 11/16
- [Latest email update from Conners Emerson School](#)
- [CES TIGER TALK: 11/15/20](#)
- [Latest email update from Superintendent Marc Gousse](#) Green Status and Thanksgiving plans

Government News & Mandates

Governor Mills: Latest Updates :

- [Ahead of Holiday Season, Mills Administration Announces Massachusetts No Longer Exempt from Quarantine or Negative Test Requirement](#)
- [Joint Statement from the Offices of Governors Murphy, Mills, Raimondo, Sununu, Scott, Lamont, and Baker on the Suspension of Interstate Youth Hockey](#)
- [Governor Mills and Commissioner Lambrew Issue Statements As Supreme Court Considers ACA](#)
- [Following Record COVID-19 Cases, Governor Mills Announces New Face Covering Executive Order](#)
- [With Cases Rising in Maine & Nationwide, Mills Administration Announces Measures to Prevent Spread of the Deadly COVID-19 Virus](#)

Other Government Resources:

- [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

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

Community Resources

- [Healthy Acadia Newsletter 11/17](#)

Acadia National Park

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

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