



## COVID-19 Vinalhaven Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

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## NOTES

**Beginning tomorrow, the daily update will no longer be daily!** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, the EOC will continue to provide up-to-the-minute information about Covid-19 and the response to it by Maine and Vinalhaven. In addition, there will be additional posts as fancy strikes or any time there is emergent information.

A kind reader pointed out that we forgot to include: **“Face Coverings MUST be worn in public settings where physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain”** in our Stage 1 table in yesterday’s post. The mistake has been corrected. You can see the new chart here [townofvinalhaven.org/sites/vinalhavenme/files/uploads/release050120\\_0.pdf](https://townofvinalhaven.org/sites/vinalhavenme/files/uploads/release050120_0.pdf)  
–Thank you!

## COVID-19 Daily Update 5-2-20

### RAISED BEDS AND GARDENING RESOURCES

Making a raised bed can be as simple as taking four boards, nailing them together, and adding soil. By spending a bit more attention and money, the bed can be a complex and elegant assembly. There are key points for success for all styles, however, as outlined in this how to guide: [gardeners.com/how-to/raised-bed-basics/8565.html](https://gardeners.com/how-to/raised-bed-basics/8565.html)

Choosing a good location for your bed is critical for success. It should have at least eight hours of sunlight and good drainage. Vegetables need plenty of water, but they should not sit in it. Even though the raised bed improves drainage, putting the bed in a low spot that sometimes has standing water may cause the vegetables to rot.

Most people use wood for the walls of their beds, but concrete blocks are also an economical material. The blocks will not decompose as wood will, but they do move and need to be reset every couple of years. The best news about whatever you build is that you don’t need to travel to the mainland to get the materials you need.

Viking is an interesting place to shop during the pandemic. You are able to look over the available soil and compost for sale without ever going in the store, as long as you wear a face covering and respect the space of anyone else who might be there looking over the materials. They are offering many types of ingredients for your beds, in different price ranges. The product line includes topsoil, potting soil, peat moss, compost, and mulch. “Stonington Growers Mix” and “Castine Raised Bed Mixture” sound promising!

In addition, store manager Ivan Olson reports that due to the sudden popularity of this do-it-yourself project, there is no rough sawn wood available. This is the usual choice for raised beds. They do have hemlock in 2X8 and 2X10 sizes. Concrete blocks are also in good supply. The best way to make your purchase is to figure out

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Top, left to right: Viking Lumber soil and Covid-19 signs  
Bottom, left to right: Peaceful Harbor Farm seedlings, and Roberts Harbor Farm tomatoes.

what you want, order over the phone or pass in a note and arrange payment. You don't have to go in the store at all! Currently, two customers are allowed in the store at the same time, with face covering, but you can also call ahead and order what you need, whether for your garden or other project, and pick it up outside..

**Once you have your bed assembled and filled with great soil, what's next?** Peaceful Harbor Farm on Dushane Rd has seedlings now, and Roberts Harbor Farm is promising them for June 1. The Plant Place may open in time for Memorial Day—keep an eye open for news.

Seeds are trickier, and may need to be ordered online. Johnnys [johnnyseeds.com](https://johnnyseeds.com) and Fedco Seeds [fedcoseeds.com](https://fedcoseeds.com) are two Maine based sources commonly used by Vinalhaven gardeners.

If you have more questions, there are two island resources full of good information for island gardeners. Vinalhaven Land Trust has a page on their website [vinalhavenlandtrust.org/vinalhaven-community-gardening](https://vinalhavenlandtrust.org/vinalhaven-community-gardening) that offers a wide range of information for beginning and experienced gardeners. And visit **Vinalhaven Community Garden on Facebook** and ask questions! This is a great place to exchange information. Our experienced gardeners are eager to share what they know.

*As always, please contact the EOC with your questions and for assistance. Subscribe to “Town Alerts” on the Town’s website to automatically receive Daily Updates in your inbox.*