



12-11-2020 **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) COVID-19 UPDATE**

The Public Health Team would like to remind everyone of three important things:

1. The case counts we share with the community are positive test results reported to us by ICMS only. That is why we report **known** positive cases; there may be additional individuals on-island who have COVID-19 but may be asymptomatic and those who may have received a positive test result at a location unassociated with ICMS. Bottom line—the number of active cases on the island should not dictate whether or not we remain vigilant. Regardless of reported known active cases, **we must all act as if the virus is here in our community.**
2. It's essential we all **practice the 3 W's**: Wear a mask. Wash our hands. Watch our distance.
3. The state is continuing to see record high daily totals of positive cases primarily due to community spread originating in small gatherings. Just as we requested you reconsider traveling and gathering for Thanksgiving, we ask you again to **be careful and cautious** regarding how you choose to celebrate December holidays. Avoid unnecessary in-person get-togethers, and if you don't have to travel, please stay home.

State Updates

As of December 11, 2020 there were **4,512 active cases** reported in the state (**an increase of 1,769 cases** since our 12-4-20 update), **44 in Knox county**, and **15,206 total cumulative cases** statewide. The state's **positivity rate is 4.62%**. See COVID-19 data on the Knox Hub website knox-hub-knoxme.hub.arcgis.com

Today the Mills Administration issued a new Executive Order that simplifies and strengthens the enforcement of the State's face covering requirement. Moving forward, **owners and operators of all indoor public spaces** – regardless of the type of entity or size – **must not allow those who refuse to wear a face covering to enter or remain in their venue***. Additionally, municipalities, which are authorized to enforce the use of face coverings on streets and sidewalks, in parks and in other public spaces, are also required to deny entry to indoor public spaces to those who will not wear face coverings. In the event of non-compliance with enforcement, the State has the option of taking action against a facility's operating license, and violations of Executive Orders are a Class E crime,

punishable by up to 180 days imprisonment and \$1,000 fine. Those who are made aware of the face covering requirement and insist on entering an establishment can be removed and charged with trespassing by law enforcement. Read the executive order at

www.townofvinalhaven.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf3981/f/uploads/12-11-20executiveorder.pdf

**Face coverings are not required for persons under age 2, those who have trouble breathing or related medical conditions or who are otherwise unable to put on or remove the mask without assistance, and those with a developmental issue that is complicated or irritated by a face covering. However, claiming a medical exemption is not an excuse to enter or remain in an establishment without a face covering. Reasonable accommodations, such as curbside service, should be made for those who cannot wear face coverings.*

Word on the Street

ICMS has **FREE Masks, Gloves and Hand Sanitizer for EVERYONE!** Contact ICMS to get yours. **(207) 863-4341**

Food and Other Assistance

The **Brown Door** (food pantry) and the **Little Free Pantry** plus other groups in the community offering food assistance. For more info visit www.townofvinalhaven.org/home/pages/get-help-basic-needs

MaineHousing's Rental Relief Program provides up to \$1,000 in rental assistance to eligible applicants for up to three months.

www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/rental/rentaldetail/covid-19-rental-relief-program

Tip of the Week: Holiday Safety

Stay safe while celebrating. Check out the CDC's Winter Holiday Safety Guidelines.



www.townofvinalhaven.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf3981/f/uploads/winterholidaysafety.pdf