



COVID-19 Vinalhaven Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

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COVID-19 Update 12-14-20

POSITIVE CASE CONFIRMED TODAY

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Public Health Teams received word today that an asymptomatic individual on island has tested positive for COVID-19. The Public Health Team has already conducted contact tracing, and those affected by direct exposure are either in isolation or quarantine. Vinalhaven School has confirmed that no individuals with known exposure have entered the school since November 24.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected, and we ask all of you to show the same level of caring, kindness, and concern toward individuals testing positive and their loved ones as you would toward anyone affected by an illness, no matter the severity.

This positive case is a clear reminder of how stealthy this virus can be and demonstrates that whether or not we have symptoms, we can unknowingly have the virus, which can easily spread to others.

You are likely tired of hearing our reminders to be cautious and DO THE RIGHT THING, but honestly, we cannot say this enough. Community transmission can occur quickly and easily if we become lax and assume the virus is not here. IT IS HERE, and we cannot let our guard down. PLEASE follow Community and CDC guidelines. Stay home unless you truly need to be out and about. Consider take out and curbside options for goods and services. Take advantage of free deliveries from ICMS and Vinalhaven Taxi. Avoid gathering with anyone outside of your household or pod. ALWAYS wear a mask in public. Wash your hands often. Stay at least six feet apart.

Additionally, remember that a negative COVID test is a snapshot in time, indicating only that a person is coronavirus negative on a particular date and time. A negative COVID test is NOT a free pass to ignore guidelines. Anyone who tests negative today may test positive tomorrow, or the next day, or the day after that.

If you believe you may have come into close contact* with someone who has tested positive, please quarantine at home and contact your health care provider for guidance. If you live with others, they will need to quarantine as well. This means not leaving your property unless for an emergency and avoiding all contact with others.

Please do your part. Only YOU can keep our community safe. Thank you.

Vinalhaven Public Health Team

Jen Desmond, Public Health Officer

Marc Candage, Emergency Management Director

Kerry McKee, EMS Director

Andrew Dorr, Town Manager

As always, please contact the EOC with your questions and comments.

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*Close contact is defined by CDC as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic clients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Vinalhaven Case Information as of March 2020

Known Active Confirmed
Positive – 1

Total Known Confirmed
Positive – 5

Total Recovered – 4

For state and county data, go
to **[knox-hub-knoxme.hub.
arcgis.com](https://knox-hub-knoxme.hub.arcgis.com)**