



## 06-05-2020 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) COVID-19 UPDATE

*A lot has been happening at the EOC this week. Here's a quick recap of what's behind us and what's ahead.*

### Business Coffee Hour Conversations

Businesses and organizations are reopening or considering how to expand existing operations safely in compliance with the state's **Plan for**

**Restarting Maine's Economy** and **CDC guidelines**.

This week Town Manager, **Andrew Dorr**, along with **Sue L'Africain**, President of the **Vinalhaven Chamber of Commerce**, **Gabe McPhail**, the EOC's Community Outreach Coordinator, and **Craig Olson**, Business Development Officer from the **Island Insitute**, held the third in a series of **Business Coffee Hour Conversations** with owners and organizers of over dozen island businesses and community groups. The conversation covered

- the economic hardship the island is facing and will keep facing as the pandemic continues
- keeping employees safe
- providing businesses with signs that display consistent safety guidelines
- how the Town's next community letter could help encourage support of the local economy by welcoming back seasonal residents

The EOC works with businesses, organizations, and community groups, to provide support and best practices for keeping staff and customers safe. Please contact the EOC if you or your business/organization needs COVID-19 health and safety guidance.

**VHEOC@townofvinalhaven.org 1-207-863-2168**



### Select Board Discusses Summer Letter to the Community

In April and May the **Public Health Team** and **Select Board** sent letters to the seasonal and year-round communities, sharing messages of caution about ways to behave safely and discouraging travel to and from the island. A June letter was scheduled to be shared online and mailed to all property and mailbox holders this week, however the proposed tone and content of the letter warranted further discussion. Last night the Select Board met with Town Manager, **Andrew Dorr** and Public Health Team Officers **Jen Desmond** and **Marc Candage**, to have the difficult conversation all leaders are having right now—**how to safely reopen the economy while still protecting public health**. The Board and the Public Health Team ultimately decided to draft a new letter which aimed to balance those two important factors more equally. A June Letter to the Community (both year-round and seasonal residents) is now scheduled to be posted online and mailed out early next week. **Watch a recording of the meeting on the Town's facebook page.**

### Tip of the Week

At the EOC we come across many creative visual tools that help spread the message about safe practices. We try to share these tools as often as we can. This **infographic** is one we've shared previously, but it's worth repeating. It's a great one for helping us understand how to behave in order to avoid the greatest risks of transmission. **Click here to Download**

