



12-31-2020 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) COVID-19 UPDATE

Has it really been 10 months since the start of the coronavirus pandemic? It seems like so long ago. On the island, so far, through your diligence, we have managed to keep the number of cases low. Yet so many communities across the state and across the nation have experienced incredible loss.

The toll this pandemic is taking on healthcare providers, on families and friends of those who have become ill and tragically, those who have lost their lives, as well as the disruptions to our economy, are immense. And yet, the new year brings new hope. With the slow rollout of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, there are now more people in the state who have received their first dose of a COVID vaccine than there are who have contracted the virus.

As we say farewell to 2020 and welcome in the new year, we want to express our deepest gratitude for all of our essential and frontline workers—our healthcare providers and first responders, our teachers, our store owners, clerks, and attendants, and public transport providers—all of our workers who interface with the public each and every day so the rest of us can go about our lives with relative ease. Thank you. And lastly, many thanks to all of you—our fellow community members—who have rallied and done what you do best—take care of one another. **To each and every one of you, we wish you a very Happy New Year. –Vinalhaven Public Health Team**

State Updates

As of December 30, 2020 there were **12,480 active cases** reported in the state (an increase of 5,168 cases since our 12-18-20 Update) and **24,201 total cumulative cases statewide**. Currently there are **171 active cases in Knox county** (an increase of 71 cases since our 12-18-20 Update). The state's **positivity rate is 5.43%**. See COVID-19 data on the Knox Hub website knox-hub-knoxme.hub.arcgis.com

Vinalhaven Case Info March – December 31, 2020

Known Active Confirmed Positive – 0
Total Known Confirmed Positive – 5
Total Recovered – 5

For state and county data, go to knox-hub-knoxme.hub.arcgis.com

Word on the Street

Sometime within the next few weeks, Vinalhaven EMS is expecting to receive a first dose of the vaccine for first responders. Additionally, ICMS will receive their first allocations of the vaccine from the Maine CDC sometime in the coming weeks. Maine CDC allows healthcare centers to include all staff as well as contract workers, such as maintenance and janitorial personnel, in their vaccination schedule. This

means that there may be a few individuals on the island who will be vaccinated in the coming weeks, even though they are not healthcare workers. Because these few individuals are associated with ICMS through the work they do in the facility, they are eligible to be vaccinated in Phase 1 of the state's vaccination plan.

Tip of the Week: Wear Your Mask!

Many people think that when they get the vaccine they will no longer need to wear a mask. This, however, is not true. Even though

studies have shown the vaccine prevents people from developing COVID-19 symptoms and becoming so ill they need to be hospitalized, they don't show whether the vaccine prevents someone from carrying COVID-19 and spreading it to others. So it's possible that someone could get the vaccine but could still be an asymptomatic carrier and could transmit it to others. This is the main reason why we can't stop wearing masks after we get the vaccine.

