



COVID-19 Vinalhaven Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

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COVID-19 Daily Update 4-21-20

EARTH DAY TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ Test Your Transfer Station Smarts!

Earth Day Celebrates 50 years on Wednesday, April 22, 2020. In honor of this 50 year anniversary, let's test our knowledge about Vinalhaven's waste handling facility, best practices for earth-friendly actions, and Covid-19 Transfer Station dos and don'ts. Ready? It's Quiz Time!

1. True or False? The Transfer Station accepts food waste, but it's only for a few people. It's a trial program.

False. Anyone can bring their food waste to the transfer station. The drop off is on the side of where you drop off household bags. One stop drop!

2. True or False? When dropping stuff off at the transfer station, there's little risk of covid-19 transmission because we're outside.

False. When we hang off the back of our pickup trucks and chat, we are in close quarters and the virus could be easily exchanged. That's why the revised rules at the Transfer Station prohibit hanging around for chats and require the wearing of face coverings.

3. True or False? Payments are still accepted at the Transfer Station.

True. Payments are still accepted at the Transfer Station. However, cash and checks are discouraged as a payment form. Charging to your Transfer Station account is the best way to pay. You just let Luther or Kenny know what you drop off, then you'll get an monthly invoice from the Town. If you do not have an account, you can set one up by contacting the Town Office **207-863-4343**. If you pay with cash, no change will be given and anything left over will be put on your account. If you don't have an account, one will be established for you.

4. True or False? It's impossible to get trash stickers anymore.

False. You can order stickers from the Town Office (**207-863-4343** townclerk@townofvinalhaven.org) You can pay by credit card or check and pick up the stickers at the Town Office door.

5. True or False? There are rules about dropping off food waste – you can't put everything in the collection bin.

True. There are guidelines about what you can and cannot put in the compost collection bin at the Transfer Station. Here's a link to the Transfer Station Compost Guide townofvinalhaven.org/sites/vinalhavenme/files/uploads/vhcompostbrochure.pdf

6. True or False? As long as a plastic item has a triangle on it and isn't a flimsy plastic bag, you can put it in the Single-Stream Recycling container.

False. The only plastic we can recycle using the Single-Stream system are plastics that meet ALL THREE of these requirements: 1) they are a container 2) they are rigid 3) they have a recycling symbol and number on them. This means that ALL of the following CANNOT be recycled using the Single-Stream system at the Transfer Station: Styrofoam, shrink wrap, plastic bags, plastic ties, bubble-wrap, mailers, coffee cup lids and other plastic lids.

7. True or False? According to the Maine Waste Hierarchy, RECYCLING is the most important way to reduce landfill waste.

False. RECYCLING is the third option for waste management best practices. The best thing to do is REDUCE how much we have to throw away (like buying things that can be reused or recycled). The second best thing to do is to REUSE as much as we can. Recycling is very important, but reducing and reusing are better.

8. True or False? Only one customer at a time is allowed in the Transfer Station payment office.

True. Just as at other essential services, people should wait outside six feet apart and not enter the office until the person who is in comes out. Our staff at the Transfer Station have to interact with the public, so protecting their health is the responsibility of all of us. Face coverings are mandatory.

9. True or False? Transfer Station accounts are just for businesses like construction and fishermen.

False. Transfer Station accounts are for everyone – individual households as well as businesses. Transfer Station accounts are easy to establish – you simply call the Town Office (**207-863-4343**), put some money down (credit and debit cards and checks are accepted!), and your credit will be applied to your drop-offs. If you want a receipt for each drop off, you can request one from Kenny or Luther.

10. True or False? The Swap Shop will remain open because REUSING is the most important way to limit waste according to the State's Waste Hierarchy.

False. REDUCING is the most important way to limit waste; REUSING is the second most important way. More importantly, the Swap Shop is closed at this time because there is no way to operate it safely. If you have items that you no longer want, but might be useful to someone else, the best thing is to list them on the Facebook online Swap Shop.

Thanks for taking the Quiz and Happy Earth Day! And thanks for doing your part to stay at home, stay healthy, and stay safe! Share the online version of this quiz at surveymonkey.com/r/QF55Z6J

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.

