



## 10-28-2020 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) COVID-19 UPDATE

We've been closely watching escalating outbreaks in rural communities, including in both Knox and Waldo county. Small gatherings with family and friends have been the cause of transmission in many rural states. These are grim reminders for us to remain vigilant, avoid gatherings, and know how to reduce the risk of transmission.

### State Updates

Today marked the 4th day in a row that Maine has seen greater than 50 new cases a day and in nearly every county. Today saw an increase of 76 cases. Maine CDC Director Nirav Shah has called this trend "alarming" and expects case counts to continue climbing. **As of today there are 800 active cases in the state**, 23 in Knox county, and 6,387 total cumulative cases statewide. The state's positivity rate has increased to 0.75% over the past two weeks. See COVID-19 data on the Knox Hub website [knox-hub-knoxme.hub.arcgis.com](http://knox-hub-knoxme.hub.arcgis.com)

### Word on the Street

*Have you received your flu shot yet?*

If you missed ICMS's latest flu clinic, call the office to make an appointment to get your no-cost flu shot free ASAP! **(207) 863-4341**

### Celebrating Halloween

You can find Halloween guidance on the CDC's website [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/halloween.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/halloween.html)

In addition, the Public Health Team has created a Halloween COVID safety flyer. The Team suggests that families with members who are in the high-risk category opt for activities that do not involve interacting with people outside of their household or pod. Trick-or-treating in groups and passing out candy, both increase the risk of exposure. Remember that small gatherings have often been the cause of transmission, including recent cases in Washington County. So play it safe – avoid going to and hosting parties.

### Planning for Thanksgiving

The CDC has published Thanksgiving celebration safety guidelines, including recommendations for traveling and for low-risk activities. See the list of low to risk activities at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#thanksgiving](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#thanksgiving)

### Food and Other Assistance

Locally, 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](http://www.townofvinalhaven.org/home/pages/get-help-basic-needs)

ICMS has hand sanitizer and masks available for businesses and organizations. Contact Dinah [dmoeyer@icmsvh.org](mailto:dmoeyer@icmsvh.org)

Follow our **Community Guidelines** to keep yourself, your family and the community safe. As always, please contact the EOC with your questions and comments.

**"The average age of cases just in the past 24 hours is 43, but the age range of new cases ranges from 8 months old to 94 years old. Of the 76 new cases within the past 24 hours, 14 are among children under the age of 18."**

*—Dr. Nirav Shah,  
speaking at special press  
briefing on 10-28-20*

### Tip of the Month

Check out this sweet Halloween COVID safety flyer from the Vinalhaven Public Health Team. Thank you Heather White for the fantastic illustration!

Download the flyer at [www.townofvinalhaven.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf3981/f/uploads/eoc\\_halloween\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.townofvinalhaven.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf3981/f/uploads/eoc_halloween_flyer.pdf)

