



## COVID-19 Vinalhaven Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

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# COVID-19 Update 11-09-20

## CDC IDENTIFIES SMALLER GATHERINGS AS CAUSE OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

Today the state reported a **record high 204 COVID-19 cases** and a positivity rate (percentage of tests taken that are positive) of 2.14%, up from 0.66% two weeks ago. Knox County's total active case count has tripled from 23 to 69 over the past two weeks. North Haven now has 13 known, confirmed cases.

What we are seeing across the state today is community transmission, which can easily snowball into tomorrow's outbreak. Outbreaks are not confined to larger facilities and congregate settings. More and more we are seeing outbreaks originating from households, family gatherings, even outside get-togethers. **It is a mistake to imagine we are immune to experiencing an outbreak here.**

Since the outset of this pandemic, the Public Health Team has strongly advised we **go about our days as if the virus is here, around us, all the time.** "Pandemic fatigue" may have caused some of us to relax the standards we once had. Perhaps we started gathering more over the summer when case counts were lower. Maybe we decided mask-wearing in public, keeping a safe distance from others, washing our hands, and avoiding gatherings weren't behaviors we needed to concern ourselves with.

We can no longer afford to relax our standards. **If we love this community, which we do, it is critical we ALL do our part to abide by our community guidelines.** We must be responsible to each other and to those we love and care about the most. We owe it to each other to do our part.

### Vinalhaven Community Guidelines

**Stay home** if you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or if you are in quarantine. Limit any unnecessary travel.

**Maintain physical distance** by keeping at least 6 feet away from others unless you are from the same household.

**Avoid gathering in groups.**

**Wear a face covering\*** when in public, including places of business, downtown, on the ferry, and all areas where you may come into contact with others.

**Comply with CDC guidelines.** Do not touch surfaces unnecessarily. Wash/sanitize hands often.

**Comply with guidelines for businesses.**

**Stay safe. Keep others safe. Be kind.**

Visit the COVID-19 pages on the Town website for local COVID-19 information and helpful resources. [www.townofvinalhaven.org/home/covid-19-1](https://www.townofvinalhaven.org/home/covid-19-1)

As always, please contact the EOC with your questions and comments.  
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\*Face coverings are required for all children age 5 and older in public settings, including school and childcare settings, and are recommended for children ages 2 to 4 unless deemed developmentally inappropriate. Exemptions continue to exist for those who have serious medical conditions or who are otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.