



11-13-2020 **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) COVID-19 UPDATE**

There is no doubt this is a very challenging time. Anxiety and concern are high as positive case counts continue to climb throughout the nation and in every Maine county. Our hearts go out to our friends on North Haven where so far, 17 of our neighbors have tested positive. This virus is real. It's opportunistic, and it's serious.

With Thanksgiving approaching, the Public Health Team and our Town leaders are asking everyone to **stay home and to limit your holiday gatherings to include just your household or pod***. It's hard to imagine not traveling to see family or inviting relatives and friends to join you on island, but if there was ever a time for sacrificing what we want personally in order to protect the health and safety of our community, especially our most vulnerable citizens, that time is now.

Please do your part. Wear your mask. Wash your hands. Watch your distance. By staying vigilant and limiting your risk factors, **we can all work together to keep each other safe.** It's the right thing to do.

**A pod is a small group of a few people, committed to abiding by Maine and CDC COVID-19 safety guidelines and to limiting their close contacts to only each other in order to mutually protect their health.*

State Updates

As of November 13, 2020 there were **2,049 active cases** in the state, **68 in Knox county**, and **8,639 total cumulative cases** statewide. The state's positivity continues to increase; it is now **2.53%**. See COVID-19 data on the Knox Hub website knox-hub-knoxme.hub.arcgis.com

Word on the Street

ICMS has **FREE Masks, Gloves and Hand Sanitizer for EVERYONE!** Masks should be worn at all times in public places. To help, ICMS is **offering all households in Vinalhaven a package of 10 masks, 2 pairs of gloves, and a bottle of hand sanitizer!** Each package is in a brown paper bag and will be on a table in the tent located in the ICMS parking lot.

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 Thanksgiving

You can find Thanksgiving guidance on the CDC's website www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#thanksgiving

In addition, the Public Health Team has created a Thanksgiving COVID safety flyer. The Team asks that everyone take extra precautions this year and avoid celebrating with people outside of their household or pod. Play it safe! See more in the Tip of the Month column.

Food and Other Assistance

Know someone who needs food 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

Did you receive your Federal Economic Impact Payment?

If you haven't filed a 2019 federal tax return or if you haven't registered for an Economic Impact Payment already, then **you may have NOT received the \$1200 Economic Impact Payment you are entitled to.** To get your payment, you need to register with the IRS by November 21. For more information and to register to receive your payment, go to www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment

Tip of the Month

Check out this Thanksgiving COVID safety flyer from the Vinalhaven Public Health Team and visit the COVID-19 pages on the Town website for local COVID-19 information and helpful resources.

Download this flyer at www.townofvinalhaven.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf3981/f/uploads/phtcovidsafetday.pdf

