



COVID-19 Vinalhaven Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

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COVID-19 Update 11-25-20

RIISING CASE COUNTS ON THANKSGIVING EVE

We continue to be saddened by news from across the state. COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to climb, and tragically, deaths are also on the rise. The North Haven community has been working diligently over the past few weeks to curb the spread of the virus there.

As you know, on November 23, the Vinalhaven Public Health Team received word that an individual on island tested positive for COVID-19. The Public Health Team and ICMS have implemented a HIPPA compliant protocol that allows the Public Health Team to release case counts to the public on a regular basis.

In addition, the Public Health Team and ICMS have implemented a contact tracing program, which operates in cooperation with the Maine CDC to identify close contacts* of individuals who've tested positive and provide them with support and quarantine guidance. If you are contacted by a certified case investigator, either from the Vinalhaven Team or from Maine CDC, please offer them your full cooperation.

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and while this has been a challenging year to say the least, we nonetheless have much to be grateful for. On the evening of this day of gratitude, we want to remind you of three important points that we've continually stressed:

1. What we are seeing across the state, including on North Haven and Vinalhaven, is community transmission caused by small gatherings. Please, stay home unless you truly need to be out and about and **follow the three W's: Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Watch your distance. It's just that simple.**
2. Remember that a negative COVID test is a snapshot in time, indicating a person is coronavirus negative only on a particular date and time. **A negative COVID test is not a free pass to ignore guidelines.** Anyone who tests negative today may test positive tomorrow, or the next day, or the day after that.
3. **Positive cases are not numbers but people**—people who deserve all the kindness and compassion that our close-knit community would offer anyone who is ill or in need. As we have said since the start of this pandemic, and as our Community Guidelines explicitly state: **Be Kind.** Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are directly affected by this virus. Empathy and compassion are called for at this time.

We are grateful to all of you for doing your part. Vinalhaven is a special place, and together we will get through this. Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

—The Vinalhaven Public Health Team

As always, please contact the EOC with your questions and comments.
VHEOC@townofvinalhaven.org | (207) 863-2042

*Close contact is defined by CDC as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic clients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Cases as of 11-25-2020

Vinalhaven

Confirmed Positive – 2

North Haven

Confirmed Positive – 18

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