



COVID-19 Vinalhaven Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

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COVID-19 Update 5-8-20

GOVERNOR MILLS ANNOUNCES RURAL REOPENING PLAN

Following the announcement of a partnership with IDEXX Laboratories that will more than triple Maine's COVID-19 testing capacity, Governor Mills announced today, a **Rural Reopening Plan** aimed at safely reopening certain additional businesses in counties of Maine which have not experienced community transmission of the virus.

Under the plan, retail stores and restaurants in Aroostook, Piscataquis, Washington, Hancock, Somerset, Franklin, Oxford, Kennebec, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties will be permitted to open in-store and dine-in service with enhanced safety precautions. Additionally, remote campsites as well as sporting camps these counties are also permitted to reopen with public health safeguards in place.

Openings Permitted in Accordance with Restarting Maine's Economy Checklist Standards	
May 11	May 18
Retail businesses may open to in-store customers. Adopt health and safety precautions. Fitness and exercise gyms may open for outdoor classes with 10 or less, or one-on-one inside the gym.	Restaurants (for dine-in service and outdoor dining) Wilderness campsites and sporting camps

As with other businesses under the Governor's plan, **these establishments are permitted to open, but are not required to do so.** Additionally, while the Governor's strategy determines which types of businesses may reopen and when, it does not preclude a municipality from adopting additional public health measures related to reopenings, including applying additional restrictions on establishments within their jurisdiction.

The **Stay Safer at Home Executive Order** is still in effect. We should not look for more reasons to go out unless it is necessary. **Do not have or join gatherings, especially when 6' distancing cannot be maintained.** Older Mainers and those with existing conditions that make someone more vulnerable should especially continue to stay home. Physical distancing is still imperative to limit the transmission of COVID-19 as the state begins to reopen. **Face coverings are still required** while you are in public settings, most notably when it is difficult to maintain adequate physical distancing.

Adjusted for population size, Maine, as of yesterday, ranked sixth lowest in the nation in terms of positive cases; 36th in the nation in terms of deaths; 27th in terms of patients ever-hospitalized out of the 32 states reporting; and 10th in the percentage of people who have recovered out of the 38 states reporting. With your help in complying with all orders and checklist standards, we can keep the numbers low and our community safe.

As always, please reach out to the EOC if you have any questions or comments. We are here to help.

Please check the Town website or Facebook page – updates are posted M-W-F by 7 PM. You can email questions to VHEOC@townofvinalhaven.org. This community is a special place and together we will get through this!