



07-03-2020 **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) COVID-19 UPDATE**

As the virus surges in many states throughout US, Maine continues to reopen under the Plan for Restarting Maine's Economy. As always, the EOC is keeping a close eye on all things COVID-19. Here are a few of this week's considerations.

Governor Mills Exempts Additional States From Quarantine and Testing Requirement

As of Friday, July 3, residents of Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey visiting Maine will be exempt from the current 14-day quarantine requirement or negative COVID-19 testing alternative. Residents of New Hampshire and Vermont visiting Maine are already exempt from these requirements.

This decision comes after the Administration reviewed public health data for Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. These states demonstrate a lower positivity rate than Maine's. Additionally, the prevalence of the virus in these states is similar and continues a downward trend.

Read more at www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/improving-public-health-metrics-mills-administration-exempts-connecticut-new-york-and-new-jersey

Face Covering Mandate Enforced for Certain Businesses in Coastal Communities

Wearing a face covering is a proven method for reducing transmission of the novel coronavirus, but not everyone chooses to wear one. Despite the fact the Governor's May 29, 2020 Executive Order requires cloth face coverings to be worn in all businesses open to the public, the mandate has not been readily enforced.

In an effort to minimize the risk of transmission as more and more people come into the state and visit businesses, the Governor announced on July 1 that she would issue an Executive Order requiring Maine's large retail stores, lodging establishments, restaurants, and outdoor bars and tasting rooms in several coastal counties including Knox, to enforce the State's face covering requirement.

In her announcement, the Governor reminded Mainers that with more people interacting, it is critical we all take steps to protect ourselves, others, and our community by wearing face coverings, keeping six feet apart whenever possible, and washing hands often with soap and warm water.

4th of July Safety in COVID Times

Vinalhaven's 4th of July will be quite different this year, but many people are still planning to celebrate. As we do so, it's important to keep safety in mind.

- More than 19,500 reported fires are started by fireworks annually. Keep fire safety in mind when using fireworks.
- Sparklers and fireworks can cause burns and injuries—take precautions and follow safe handling guidelines.
- Gathering with others? Keep your group small, stay outdoors, maintain social distance, practice good hygiene, and wear a face covering.
- Having a cookout? Avoid shared utensils, cups, and dishes. Encourage guests to bring and handle their own food.

Tip of the Week

It's likely no secret that we at the EOC love infographics and visual communications. Whenever we come across helpful tools, we are eager to share them with you. This week's **infographic** illustrates how wearing a face covering reduces the risk of transmission.

Click here to Download.

