



## 07-10-2020 **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) COVID-19 UPDATE**

*As we move into our 5th month living in "COVID times", the EOC has decided to reduce the number of email updates we provide from once a week to once or more each month. Our web content is well established, and we feel much of the information we have to share is readily available there. We will continue to push out content via social media throughout the week and as always, the Public Health Team is available to answer your questions and hear your concerns. Please contact the EOC at (207) 863-2168 or email [VHEOC@townofvinalhaven.org](mailto:VHEOC@townofvinalhaven.org).*

### Case Counts

#### ***Will we know if there are positive cases on the island?***

Facilities that conduct testing do not release test results to the public and Maine CDC (MCDC) does not directly notify the Town nor the Public Health Officer when someone on the island has tested positive.

Testing facilities share positive results with the patient and/or medical provider and with MCDC. MCDC then conducts contact tracing to find all the people with whom the positive patient may have had close contact.

Learn more about **Contact Tracing**:

[www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/contact-tracing.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/contact-tracing.shtml)

The Vinalhaven Public Health Team monitors Maine case counts daily. The Maine CDC website provides case counts by zip code, county, and a variety of other metrics.

Positive case counts are attributed to the county and zip code of the patient's **primary residence**. This means that people on the island who test positive but whose primary residence is elsewhere, will not affect the Vinalhaven case count.

In an effort to keep the community informed of Vinalhaven case counts, the Town has included a **Case Counts** page to the COVID-19 section of the Town website so islanders can easily access MCDC information.

View **case count information** from MCDC:

[www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/data.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/data.shtml)

The reality is that having positive cases on the island should not change what we do on a daily basis. The recommendation of Maine CDC is to "act as though the virus is here" so following our **Community Guidelines** at all times is essential to keep yourself, your family and the community safe.

As always, please contact the EOC with your questions and comments.

[VHEOC@townofvinalhaven.org](mailto:VHEOC@townofvinalhaven.org)  
(207) 863-2168

### Tip of the Week

Have you seen this great short film by PBS's **It's Okay to Be Smart**? It's a very clever look at the efficacy of face coverings as viewed with slow-motion schlieren imaging experiments. **Click here to check it out!**

