



COVID-19 Vinalhaven Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Andrew Dorr
Town Manager

Marc Candage
EMA Director

Kerry McKee
EMS Director

Jen Desmond
Public Health Officer

Pat Lundholm
Public Information Officer

Gabrian McPhail
Community Outreach
Coordinator

Tanya Robishaw
EOC Support Staff

Janica Barrows
EOC Support Staff

EOC Email
VHEOC@
townofvinalhaven.org

Town of Vinalhaven
19 Washington School Rd
Vinalhaven, Maine 04863
Phone: 207-863-2042
Cell: 207-266-7806
Fax: 207-863-4393
www.townofvinalhaven.org

COVID-19 Daily Update 3-28-20

This update would not be appropriate if we did not recognize the news story concerning a situation that developed yesterday on the island which required a response from the Knox County Sheriff, Maine's Department of Marine Resources, and the United States Coast Guard. While the incident is still under investigation, we understand that it is related to at least one person who may be from out-of-state. We bring this up only to say that this type of activity is NOT what we want to share. This is NOT the type of thing that Vinalhaven is about. Please be compassionate to our friends, family, and neighbors.

At the same time, if you have recently come here or returned home from being away, we expect you to quarantine yourselves for at least 14 days. Do NOT go into public spaces, to stores, or places where you will be in contact with other people and common surfaces.

Having said that, we all appreciate that Vinalhaven is an exceptionally caring community. Not only do we look out for those who are in our close circles, we reach out to others. Social distancing is hard when we enjoy spending time with each other so much!

Folks have been creative. Today, we're sharing a few ideas of what we've heard around town—feel free to share your ideas with us at VHEOC@townofvinalhaven.org

Use of Zoom

Zoom¹ is a platform like Facetime or Skype that is easy to use and allows multiple people to be on the screen at the same time. This is not the only software that can do this, and we're not promoting it, but a lot of folks and organizations around town use it, including the Town. Uses that we know of include:

- The Town and other organizations continue to hold meetings without the need to be in the same room
- At least one of the Town's book clubs is setting up to Zoom the discussion
- Some groups of friends get together at 6 for a Zooming glass of wine and laughs
- Family and friends of Eldercare residents Facetime with the residents

Other ideas – are any of you doing this?

- Churches – Virtual service? A prayer meeting?
- Family gatherings – share a meal and mealtime chat in multiple households, here and away
- Game night – this might take some creativity – cards might not work, but Charades? Trivial Pursuit?

¹ Zoom is free for 40 minute sessions; for longer sessions the price is \$14.99/month

If you want to give Zoom a try and need some technical help, or would like to volunteer to be that tech person, email us at VHEOC@townofvinalhaven.org

Ideas to cheer people up

You may know of someone who is down and have seen how an unexpected treat serves as a real pickup.

- Recently one young person got a special birthday treat when a stream of fire trucks went by, saluting the youngster on his special day.
- Lots and lots of people are checking on their neighbors regularly on the phone. They stress talking about anything other than the pandemic!
- The Ambulance crew calls many people weekly to make sure they are having their needs met, including all the information they need about the Pandemic.

Other ideas include

- Flowers – from here or away – forsythia can be forced, pussy willows are ready for cutting – an unexpected bouquet for someone who is low may be really uplifting
- Videos – maybe our talented young people can make a video (from separate locations) for any reason and on any subject. This one, from some kids in Gorham, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XY1fA6uRN8Q> serves as a lesson on how and why to social distance, but lots of subjects may be fun to explore, for wide publication or just one person.
- Sewing masks – at this time we do anticipate that we have an adequate supply of N95 masks, but we may be short on the type of mask that we ask patients to wear when they are sick at home or in the back of the ambulance. Our design is almost ready – this is a chance for the many people with inventories of fabric to put it to use. If you would like to be on the sewing team, please let us know at VHEOC@townofvinalhaven.org

Ideas are welcome! They can be ideas that others may simply duplicate, or ideas that require organization by the Outreach Committee. And if you wish to volunteer but don't know of people that might welcome your call, let us know. Thank you for all you do for all of us.

If you have questions about or want to see any of the information we have offered, you can find them on the Town's website at www.townofvinalhaven.org or view the resource page in the Wind. You can also call the Town Office to get more information about recommendations or available resources.

1-207-863-2168

1-207-863-4471

VHEOC@townofvinalhaven.org