



COVID-19 Vinalhaven Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

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COVID-19 Daily Update 4-20-20

PATRIOTS' DAY

Many of us take notice of Patriots' Day if we are followers of the Boston Marathon. For others, it may take us by surprise when we go to the post office or town office and find that the doors are locked. Patriots' Day commemorates the first day of blood loss in the Revolutionary War, "the shot heard round the world".

Our history books describe the scrappy, courageous, ill-prepared but determined guerrilla fighters who took on the highly disciplined and well-trained British soldiers in Lexington, Concord, and Menotomy (now Arlington). Today, we are fighting a different kind of war. Like our forefathers, we may be ill-prepared for this fight, but we are scrappy and courageous and are learning to adjust as we move forward.

As those early patriots learned, there is no quick, painless victory to be had. It took six years from that initial battle to victory at Yorktown. Today we are faced with a similar challenge to stay the course, and predictions of how and when we will return to normalcy are uncertain.

Just like the men and women of 1775, we are ill-prepared for this battle. We have never been a nation of mask wearers, and it takes some time to adjust. It is painful to abstain from social interactions with friends and family. It is unfair that many have serious financial challenges resulting from this. It is scary that many are called to the front lines to keep us healthy and fed.

As Governor Mills said in her 4-17-20 statement [maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-guidelines-reopening-economy-2020-04-17](https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-guidelines-reopening-economy-2020-04-17)

"We all want life to return to normal as soon as it is safe to do so. Our hearts break to see closed storefronts and people struggling to make ends meet because of this crisis. At the same time, we all know that reopening too soon and too aggressively will likely cause a secondary surge in COVID-19 cases, jeopardizing the lives of Maine people and further destabilizing the economy."

We must stay the course. As we value human life, we must and will continue to follow the leadership of our state and do our best to maintain social distancing. We will cover our faces when engaged in necessary interactions with others. To the extent that we can, we will support our local businesses and non-profits so they are all still here when this is over. We will win this war.

As always, please contact the EOC with your questions and for assistance. Subscribe to "Town Alerts" on the Town's website to automatically receive Daily Updates in your inbox.