



COVID-19 Vinalhaven Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

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COVID-19 Update 5-15-20

CAN I GET TESTED?

As summer approaches, both the Town's Public Health Team and ICMS have been answering questions about coronavirus testing. *Can ICMS provide testing to anyone who wants it? Can people coming from out-of-state be tested as soon as they arrive on island?*

Unfortunately, testing capacity at **Maine's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL)** is limited. Only individuals who meet the criteria for Maine CDC's testing prioritization system may receive PCR, antibody, or rapid tests. This means that individuals whose symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 but who do not fall into one of these high-risk categories are not tested, but evaluated and isolated at home. And as one would suspect, **asymptomatic individuals are not tested.**

Patients who do not meet high-risk criteria for testing at HETL can be tested at other commercial laboratories. **ICMS** sends tests to the commercial laboratory Nordx, but in accordance with the State's testing guidelines, does not offer universal testing at this time and is **currently testing only those who meet the prioritization criteria.**

Maine CDC's Testing Prioritization System

Maine's current testing prioritization system only allows testing for **High Priority** and **Priority** cases

High Priority

- Those who are hospitalized
- Health care workers
- First responders (e.g., EMS Police, Fire)
- Patients living in congregate setting (e.g., LTCFs, group homes, assisted living facilities, jails, shelters)

Priority

- Patients older than 60 years
- Patients with underlying medical conditions

On May 7th Governor Mills announced a partnership between the State and Maine-based IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. to purchase enough COVID-19 testing kits to more than triple the State's testing capacity from 2,000 test/week to 7,000. While this sounds promising, and as the Governor said, "(it) changes everything", it will not enable universal testing for those who are asymptomatic. However, it will allow Maine CDC to eliminate its testing prioritization system.

As always, please reach out to the EOC with your comments and questions. We are here to help!