COVID-19 Update 5-18-20

SAFETY FIRST—Stay Safer at Home While Restarting Maine’s Economy

How come I can go out to a restaurant, but not to dinner at a friend’s house? Why can I go play a game of golf, but not a game of basketball? How come I can sit in the same room with my hairdresser, but I can’t sit in the same room with my grandkids?

We live in crazy times. The messages we are getting about what we can and cannot do are contradictory and confusing to say the least. As the Governor’s plan for Restarting the Maine Economy continues to unfold, more and more it seems to conflict with the Stay Safer at Home Executive Order, which is still in effect until May 31st.

Both documents are in place to guide our actions with the goal of staying safe and slowing the spread of the virus so as not to overwhelm community resources. Both documents share the goal of keeping people healthy. But the plan for Restarting Maine’s Economy has the additional goal of keeping the economy healthy, and it’s hard for these two goals to exist simultaneously without being contradictory.

While we’d all like to have some cut-and-dry answers for how we can best behave, we know we have to act in ways that focus on our primary goal—keeping ourselves and others safe. If you are acting as though you have the virus, your interactions with others should be limited. In the absence of concrete answers, the emphasis should be on staying home, unless you are taking part in an essential activity or seeking allowable services, see the table below for further clarification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSONAL RESTRICTIONS</th>
<th>ALLOWED</th>
<th>NOT ALLOWED</th>
<th>NOW PERMITTED when following DECD checklist standards*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stay at Home order remains in effect except for newly permitted activities</td>
<td>Gatherings of up to 10 people while obtaining essential services and maintaining 6 feet separation and wearing a face covering</td>
<td>Gatherings of more than 10 people for ANY REASON</td>
<td>Health Care from Maine Licensed Providers</td>
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<tr>
<td>If arriving from out-of-state, self-quarantine for 14 days</td>
<td>Face Coverings MUST be worn in public settings where physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain</td>
<td></td>
<td>Some Personal Services including hair salons barbershops, pet grooming</td>
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<td>Face Coverings</td>
<td>Outdoor Recreation, including Golf Courses and Disc Courses, Guided outdoor activities (Hunting, Fishing)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Limited drive-in, stay-in-your-vehicle church services</td>
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<td>MUST be worn in public settings</td>
<td>Marinas, Some 30 State Parks and Historic Sites, but coastal sites will remain closed, State-owned public lands, trails</td>
<td></td>
<td>Drive-in Theaters</td>
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<td>where physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain</td>
<td>Retail businesses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restaurants (for dine-in service and outdoor dining)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wilderness campsites and sporting camps</td>
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* maine.gov/decd/covid-19-prevention-checklists

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Please check the Town website or Facebook page – updates are posted M-W-F by 7 PM. You can email questions to VHEOC@townofvinalhaven.org. This community is a special place and together we will get through this!