



COVID-19 Vinalhaven Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Andrew Dorr
Town Manager

Marc Candage
EMA Director

Kerry McKee
EMS Director

Jen Desmond
Public Health Officer

Gabrian McPhail
Community Outreach
Coordinator

Tanya Robishaw
EOC Support Staff

Janica Barrows
EOC Support Staff

EOC Contact
VHEOC

@townofvinalhaven.org

207-863-2168

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 Update 5-25-20

BEING OF SERVICE

It's Memorial Day—a time to look back and reflect, remembering those who have made service a fundamental part of their lives. Service connects us to ourselves and to each other. On this special day of remembrance, we asked EMS Director Kerry McKee and Town Manager Andy Dorr, both members of the Town's Public Health Team, to share their thoughts about service during the age of COVID-19.

What strikes you the most about how people have responded to each other during this crisis?

Kerry: We are all helpers in our own way; we all hear the call to serve our community. Some serve in obvious and needed ways and some in creative and helpful ways. Together we form a strong community that even a virus cannot destroy.

Andy: The continued support this community shows to one another is unbelievable. From those that have offered to pay-it-forward, to looking out for each other by respecting guidelines. I am not surprised by this, but am always grateful for the community's willingness to support one another.

When providing service to the community during COVID-19, what are some of the challenges you and others face?

Kerry: There are so many unknowns it's difficult to give solid advice. Knowledge about Covid-19 grows and changes daily. We try to stay fact-based and follow CDC guidelines and the Governor's orders and recommendations.

Andy: Balancing public health risk and community well-being is a big challenge. There are a lot of things being asked of all of us and even more information being offered from around the world about what this pandemic has already done. It's an extremely challenging time in general. We want more than anything to see this community, our friends, and family get through this situation with little or no impact. Ways to do that are to continue to do the best we can and to never stop supporting each other.

When people ask how they can help, what do you say?

Kerry: I truly believe the most important things each one of us can do are to be proactive, stay healthy at home, social distance, wear a mask, be logical, and be kind. If you have ideas for how you'd like to help others, let us know!

Andy: Some really impactful ways to help are to support our local economy, run errands for vulnerable family and friends, call someone you haven't talked to in a while, and be respectful as we all learn to navigate these times in our own ways. If you still have time on your hands, contact us, and we'll connect you with other ways you can help.

What is one important message you'd like to share with the community?

Kerry: Be vigilant—keep yourself, your loved ones, and your community safe and healthy by following CDC guidelines.

Andy: Don't live in fear. Learn how to reduce your risks by following the guidelines, and, most importantly, help one another.