In our last official update, we said we’d provide EOC reports monthly and “as needed”. Here’s what’s new.

State Updates
(As of August 11) 4,050 Maine residents have tested positive for COVID-19; 27 in Knox County. Based on positive test results, Knox county has 2 active cases, but there are likely many more people who are positive who have not been tested or are asymptomatic. See all the latest State and Knox County data on the Maine CDC website. www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/data.shtml

On August 3, Governor Mills extended the State of Civil Emergency to allow Maine to continue to draw down critical Federal resources and to deploy all available resources to respond to COVID-19. Read More at www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/maine-seeks-maintain-relatively-low-virus-spread-governor-mills-renews-state-civil-emergency

Guidance for public gatherings was updated on August 5. Currently a maximum of 50 people indoors (no more than 5 individuals per 1,000 square feet) and 100 outdoors are permitted to gather provided that people maintain 6 feet physical distance, wear face coverings when distancing is not possible, and practice proper hygiene. For all requirements for gatherings, go to www.maine.gov/decd/checklists/large-social-gatherings

Want to learn more about Testing Options? Check out this list of testing locations throughout the state. People interested in a test should call ahead and ask questions about access, hours, and costs. www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine/keepmainehealthy/testing ICMS provides tests for people with symptoms and can assist Maine residents who are part of the Maine Health System who need to get tested after returning from out-of-state travel. www.icmsvh.org

Word on the Street
Know someone who needs food assistance? How about help with rent? Locally we there’s the Brown Door (food pantry) and the Little Free Pantry plus other groups in the community offering food assistance. Check out the list www.townofvinalhaven.org/home/pages/get-help-basic-needs The State has renewed and updated MaineHousing’s Rental Relief Program. Households that meet certain requirements may receive a payment of up to $1,000 in rental assistance paid directly to the landlord for up to three months. Go to www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/rental/rentaldetail/covid-19-rental-relief-program

“Don’t trash it, stash it” is a reminder to everyone not to toss your disposable masks on the ground when you’re done wearing them. Whether stash in your pocket for later use or find a trash can to put it in. We’ve heard many reports of accumulating mask litter; let’s be responsible and do our part to keep VH litter-free.

ICMS has hand sanitizer and masks available for businesses and organizations. Contact Dinah dmoyer@icmsvh.org

Tips of the Week
Get the Facts! Check out the Knox Hub for all of the latest data on case counts, local resources and more! knox-hub-knoxe.hub.arcgis.com

It’s August–there’s a lot of congestion on our sidewalks downtown. Do your part. Be respectful of others–Wear your Mask on Main!

Follow our Community Guidelines to keep yourself, your family and the community safe. www.townofvinalhaven.org/home/pages/covid-19-community-guidelines

As always, please contact the EOC with your questions and comments.