

# Town of Bar Harbor: Covid Update

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July 30, 2020 / 4 pm / Town Manager's Office

## PLEASE WEAR A MASK

The Town of Bar Harbor expects residents and visitors alike to abide by CDC and State recommendations for mask wearing, social distancing, quarantine, isolation, and handwashing. Abiding by these recommendations will help protect our island community.

Maine can welcome all visitors from VT, NH, NJ, NY, CT without test or quarantine, and all others who provide a recent negative covid test or who quarantine for 14 days.

The Governor's mandate requires Maine people to wear cloth face coverings in public places where physical distancing is difficult to maintain, as recommended by the US CDC.

## Covid Transmission Update

- MDI Hospital confirmed that they have had eight (8) positive tests to date.
  - 3 Hancock County, 5 other
- As of today 7/30/20, Maine CDC has confirmed twenty seven (27) positive cases in Hancock County.
- There have been zero (0) positive tests in Bar Harbor.
- The current case rate for the State of Maine is 29 per 10k people
- The current case rate for Hancock County is 4.9 per 10k people

Here is an explanation of the large jump in Hancock County numbers from Hancock Emergency Management Agency Director Andrew Sankey:

Good afternoon.

It has been some time since I've offered an update relating to the COVID-19 pandemic that unfortunately remains part of our daily experience.

So as to dispel anecdotal, erroneous information from a variety of sources presently in circulation, I wish to share with you what is known to me regarding the circumstances surrounding the arrival earlier this week of migrant agricultural workers to Hancock County that have tested positive for COVID-19.

As reported by media sources following the Maine CDC briefing on Tuesday afternoon, migrant workers from Florida arrived in Hancock County in support of the coming blueberry harvest.

Testing of these persons was performed on-site by the Maine Mobile Health Program, (a component of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services) with five (5) positive cases being identified. Subsequently, these five individuals, as well as all other migrant passengers were relocated later on Monday to a facility in Bangor, whereby they remain to quarantine, receive shelter, and other related care needs.

As you're aware, the presence of migrant agricultural workers is a routine, annual occurrence in Hancock County, as is the employment of many other seasonal, foreign-sourced workers to assist with our region's tourism service sector needs. As we are fast approaching the beginning of the blueberry harvest and processing season, it is to be anticipated we will see additional arrivals of migrant workers, some of which, upon screening, may also result in a positive COVID-19 test.

I have inquired as to why, as remains the requirement for other visitors to Maine from some locations, the migrants were neither tested prior to arrival, nor the 14-day quarantine period provisioned. I also am seeking clarification as to why those testing positive are being listed statistically as being Hancock County residents, in contrast with past practice in all other cases, to-date. Regardless of the answers, we all remain focused upon the wellbeing of all persons, be they seasonal or year-round residents of Hancock County, as well as our temporary regional guests.

I've heightened sensitivity to any statements that may unintentionally cause confusion or otherwise somehow have an adverse consequence to the entirety of our business community, already under untoward economic pressures brought about by this season's irregularities due to COVID-19. This especially extends to our hospitality, retail, agricultural and fishing communities. We continue to receive guidance from Maine CDC and draw upon our pandemic planning to ensure we and all our Public Health and Public Safety partners are following best practices to keep COVID-19 a minimum risk here in Hancock County.

Should you have any questions or require additional information that may assist you in the performance of your duties, please contact me at your convenience; we're here to help. As always, thank you for your time, assistance and considerations; all is appreciated. Please remain both safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

Andrew X Sankey, Director

Hancock County Emergency Management Agency

[Maine Center for Disease Control](#)

## Public Safety & Municipal News

- These Bar Harbor Covid Updates are now published on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- Town Council meets next on 8/4 at 4pm
  - Can be viewed live at [townhallstreams.com](http://townhallstreams.com) or on spectrum cable channel 1303
  - To participate, click here for the [Zoom Link](#)
- Election recount will be conducted 8/1 at the Bar Harbor Municipal Building gymnasium beginning at 9 AM access is limited to 50 people.
- Council Actions from 7/21:
  - Ms. Cough, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved to make the following statement:
  - The Town Council of Bar Harbor firmly stands with the Governor's Executive Orders regarding masks and will support our local businesses in that all individuals must wear face coverings while in any indoor spaces accessible to the public and congested village areas, as well as those servicing these public spaces and businesses.
- Motion passed 7-0.
- [Bar Harbor Election Results](#)
- 6 FREE MASK boxes, with sanitizer on them, have been installed in downtown Bar Harbor. They are located in the following areas:
  - Agamont Park, near comfort station by pergola
  - Village Green, near comfort station
  - 2 Cottage Street
  - Barker Park
  - Municipal Building
  - Near the First on Main Street

## MDI Hospital

**MDI Hospital Coronavirus Call Center** : If you are having symptoms or think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, call your primary care provider. If you do not have one, reach out to our Coronavirus Call Center at 207-801-5900. Calling ahead helps our dedicated health care professionals provide the best possible care and protects those in our community who are most vulnerable. Remember: **PLEASE CALL AHEAD**

[MDI Hospital Covid Updates](#)

## School Information: Conners Emerson & MDI High School

The track, tennis courts and playgrounds at MDI Regional Schools (AOS 91) are open to the public, with the following guidelines....

- All State of Maine and CDC guidelines must be followed and adhered to at all times (social distancing, no large gathering, face covering, etc.)
- No team organized practices or equipment will be allowed or available
- Any person using the facilities will do so at their own risk. MDIRSS will not be responsible for any issues that may occur
- Only 2 tennis courts will be available at this time.
- Public restrooms will not be available

- Please note that the gyms and weight room will not be available
- Please note that all schools in MDIRSS are still shut down and not available

### [USDA Pandemic EBT program](#)

### School Emails and Websites

- <http://www.mdirss.org/>
- [Latest email update from Principal Haney and MDI High School - Results of Survey](#)
- [MDI High School: Extra Curricular Physicals & Insurance Information](#)
- [Latest email update from Conners Emerson School - Return to school update](#)
- [Latest email update from Superintendent Marc Gousse - August 10 : Final Recommendations for Return to School.](#)

## Government News & Mandates

### Governor Mills: Latest Updates :

- [Governor Mills & MaineHousing Expand Rental Relief Program to Help Prevent Evictions, Counter Reductions in Federal Unemployment Benefits](#)
- [Maine DHHS Announces Four Additional “Swab and Send” COVID-19 Testing Sites To Protect Health of Students & Staff, Mills Administration Provides Public Health Guidance & Financial Support to School Systems Across Maine](#)
- [Mills Administration Supports Child Care for Working Families with \\$8 Million Investment from Coronavirus Relief Fund](#)
- [Mills Administration on 2020 First Quarter Drug Overdose Report](#)
- [Mills Administration Announces Nearly 20 “Swab and Send” COVID-19 Testing Sites](#)
- [Governor Mills Proclaims Today Ashley Frederick Bryan Day](#)
- [Governor Mills Secures Discounted Electricity for Maine from Hydro-Québec](#)
- [Governor Mills Statement Regarding Sappi Paper Machine Closure To Fight COVID-19.](#)
- [Governor Mills Strengthens Enforcement of Face Covering Requirement as Maine Reopens](#)
- [With Improving Public Health Metrics, Mills Administration Exempts Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey From Quarantine & Testing Requirement](#)

**Representative Brian Hubbell’s latest newsletter : Stabilizing the economy, climate action strategies, and public health measures 7/23/20**

### Other Government Resources:

- [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#)
- [Maine Tourism Relief Fund](#) : Apply For Assistance beginning May 5
- [The Small Business Association](#) Link to loan and grant forms: EIDL & PPP

- [CDC Guidelines](#)
- [Maine CDC](#)

## Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce

If you have ideas that would help Bar Harbor businesses during this time, please email concepts to Chamber Director Alf Anderson: [alf@barharborinfo.com](mailto:alf@barharborinfo.com)

Includes resource lists for visitors and businesses

<https://www.visitbarharbor.com/member-center-coronavirus-resources>

## Community Resources

- [Healthy Acadia Newsletter 7/28](#)
- [Open Table MDI – Building Community, One Meal at a Time](#) is delivering meals twice a week, free of charge, to anyone who requests them (MDI wide), as well as once a week curbside pick up. They are donation based and the food is healthy and tasty.
- [Jesup Memorial Library Interlibrary Loan is now active in Maine](#)
- [Mount Desert 365 Resource Spreadsheet](#) is a resource list for all of MDI
- [Project Open: A community spreadsheet letting residents and visitors know what island businesses are open](#)
- [Mount Desert Island Community Response](#) is a resource list for all of MDI
- [Bar Harbor Food Pantry](#)
- [Help Request to MDI Community Helpers](#)

### Ways to Help

- [MDI Nonprofit Alliance : Share Our Stimulus](#) : share stimulus money with local nonprofits.
- [MDI Community Helpers](#)
- [Island Connections](#)

## Acadia National Park

[See latest alert from ANP](#) : Current Conditions

## Land & Garden Preserve

The Asticou Azalea Garden is now open each Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until at least early August.

- Thuya Garden hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. Thuya Lodge will be closed for the 2020 season.
- Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden will open July 30 through September 6. Thursday through Sunday between 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

- Little Long Pond, Asticou Landing, Terraces and Lookouts are open daily from dawn to dusk.

[Land & Garden Preserve.](#)

## Mental Health

[National Alliance on Mental Illness Maine](#)

[Maine DHHS - Hotlines/Crisis Numbers](#)

[Crisis Services](#)

## Island Explorer

Downeast Transportation, in consultation with its partners, has decided to indefinitely postpone Island Explorer bus system service for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**For more information or to add to this resource page, please email: [nina@barharbormaine.gov](mailto:nina@barharbormaine.gov)**