

TOWN OF SWAN'S ISLAND

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March 19, 2020

Yes, COVID 19 is real and very well may make it to Swan's Island.

On Tuesday, March 17th, the Selectmen called an emergency meeting with the following individuals: Robert Gardner, Fire Chief, Debbie Staples, EMS Director, Sonja Philbrook, EMS Assistant Director, Donna Wiegler, Health Officer, Charles Wiegler, Emergency Management Director, Rob Morang, Hancock County Sheriff, Kathy Clark, Ferry Advisory Committee, Terry Staples, Food Pantry, Bryan Krafjack, The Island Market and Supply, Sonny Sprague, Gary Turner, Jason Joyce, Selectmen, Karen Griffin, Administrative Assistant to Selectmen. We addressed COVID-19 and its impact on this island.

There is much we can do as a community to prepare for and to lessen the impact on our island. This virus is particularly hard on our older generation. We must remember that it is extremely important that our volunteers and members of our community that serve us stay healthy. Our goal is to minimize the impact but we cannot do it alone. The following are guidelines/suggestions on how to proceed forward:

- (1) Discourage all unnecessary off Island travel by islanders.
- (2) Discourage all unnecessary daily travel from the mainland.
- (3) If travel is necessary, please follow the most recent Maine Center of Disease Control (MCC) recommendations for travel. (If possible return the same day.)
- (4) We request that all residents returning from extended trips off island to voluntarily self quarantine for 2 weeks.
- (5) Island residents who work and stay on the mainland but return to the Island on the weekend should self-quarantine on weekend.

(6) All off island day contractors working on the island are restricted to the job site. Once work day is completed, return to the ferry line for departure.

(7) Contractors with longer stays (weekly) are to restrict travel while on the island to the work site. At the end of work, return to the ferry line for departure.

(8) Remain in your car while on the ferry. Do not visit with crew while crossing. The Town is serviced by the Maine State Ferry Service that has a limited number of certified Captains, Engineers, and Able Bodied Seamen to operate the ferry. Their health is extremely important. We cannot lose our ferry service.

(9) Suggestion: If at all possible purchase additional ferry tickets. This would greatly lessen congestion at the Ferry Terminal. Our terminal agents cannot get sick.

(10) Check the Swan's Island Information Page and Town Office Page on Face Book for daily updates. (THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT)

(11) Reminder: Washing hands and surfaces is absolutely necessary.

Wednesday morning, Terry Staples posted on Facebook the following: "Today, with God's grace, we will make it through these troubled times. Be safe, do not panic, and always show love and kindness to all." This is our belief as well.

Selectmen
Town of Swan's Island