



April 4, 2020

To the Chebeague Community

Amid the COVID-19 outbreak, the health and safety of all of us on this island must be our highest priority. The uncertainties about its spread and the duration of this epidemic worry us all. CTC wants the community to understand the current situation affecting our operations and to be aware of the reasons for our decisions during this epidemic.

Protection of CTC's passengers and crew is paramount: While some of us can self-isolate, the CTC crews put themselves (and their families) at risk of exposure by continuing to operate essential transportation service. At this time, our crews are working 12-hour shifts and also are on call 24/7 for non-COVID emergency rescues. CTC is now functioning with four captains and two part-time deckhands. Their health and safety are vital to continued operations. Without a crew we have no operations.

Protection of our primary link to the mainland: The *Independence* is CTC's only available passenger vessel for the time being. If she is out of service, even for a brief period, this island loses a critical link for essential travel to the mainland. Without CTC, life on Chebeague would be very different.

Loss of insurance coverage: The handful of marine insurance underwriters in the U.S. are racing to revise coverage to exclude COVID-19. CTC understands that our liability coverage and all our insurance policies will likely be canceled if we alter our current (March 18) policy on COVID-19 transport. CTC cannot operate without insurance. Discussions are ongoing with the State of Maine and others seeking insurance relief in this emergency.

COVID-19 Emergency Transportation is available: CTC understands that two options are available to transport COVID-19 emergencies from Chebeague: The U.S. Coast Guard and Long Island's rescue boat. The Portland Fire Boat is also equipped to perform emergency rescues. If you are experiencing a COVID-19 emergency and require assistance, please call 911.

U.S. Coast Guard advisory to CTC about COVID-19 transport: The U.S. Coast Guard does not recommend that CTC carry potential/confirmed COVID-19 patients on its public ferries. Doing so risks exposure to crew, other passengers, and contamination of the boat.

Non-Emergency Transport for those seeking COVID-19 testing: If mainland testing is ordered, CTC understands that the community now has three options:

- Casco Bay Lines
- CTC barge (CTC's insurer agreed on Thursday to allow transportation under strict protocols via the CTC barge within a personal vehicle. Additional information on this procedure will be available soon on the CTC website)
- Private water taxi service to Cousins.

Protection is the ultimate objective of CTC's COVID-19 policy: Protection of this community, protection of our crew and vessel, and protection of our ability to continue to operate.

The current situation is unfolding day to day. Transportation policy is being modified, including reductions in our ferry schedule, availability of bus service, and transportation for COVID-19 testing.