

**Report on
Chebeague Community
Survey on COVID-19**

Presented September 23, 2020

Why a Survey

- To **listen** to all voices in the island community
- Assess how, when and if critical information on COVID-19 was being received
- Get a sense of the biggest concerns
- Give the community members a voice to reflect on the island's response **(anonymously)**
- Reflect on what COVID-19 efforts were working well and where the Community Action Response Team (CART) and the wider community could improve our collective COVID-19 response

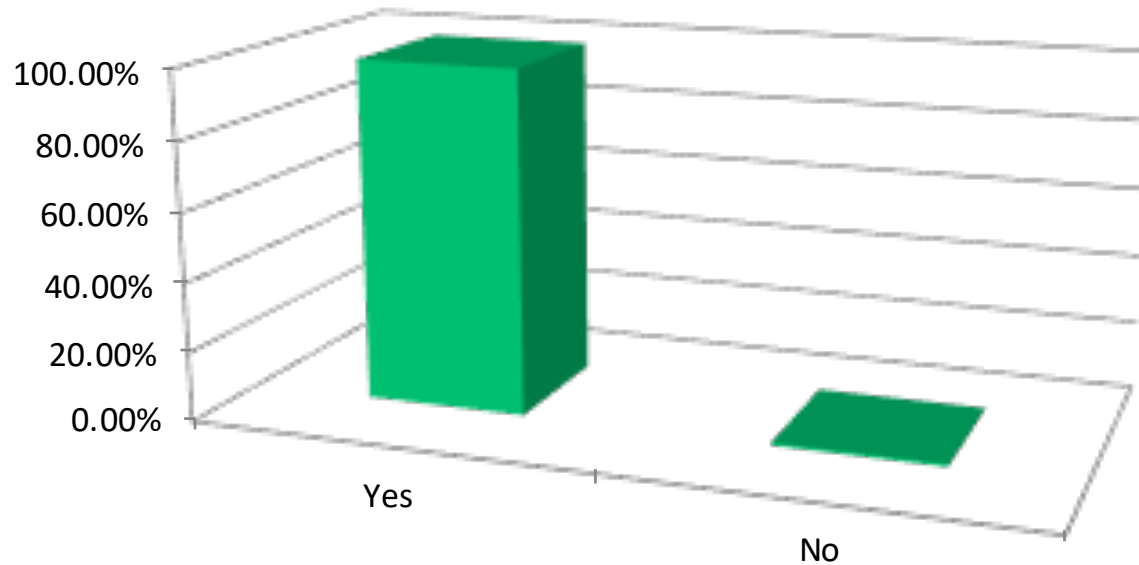
How we conducted the Survey on COVID-19

- Five months into the global COVID-19 pandemic, a community wide survey was administered by the Community Action Response Team (CART)
- Approximately 275 responses
- 10 questions
- Posted on Survey Monkey
- Dates of survey: August 6-August 31st
- Mailed to 25 targeted residents (based on bandwidth, technology access)
- It is a snapshot in time (State of Emergency was declared March 15 (Maine), April (Chebeague))
- By August, **Chebeague had not experienced an outbreak**, the few cases of COVID-19 had recovered or were in the process of recovering at home

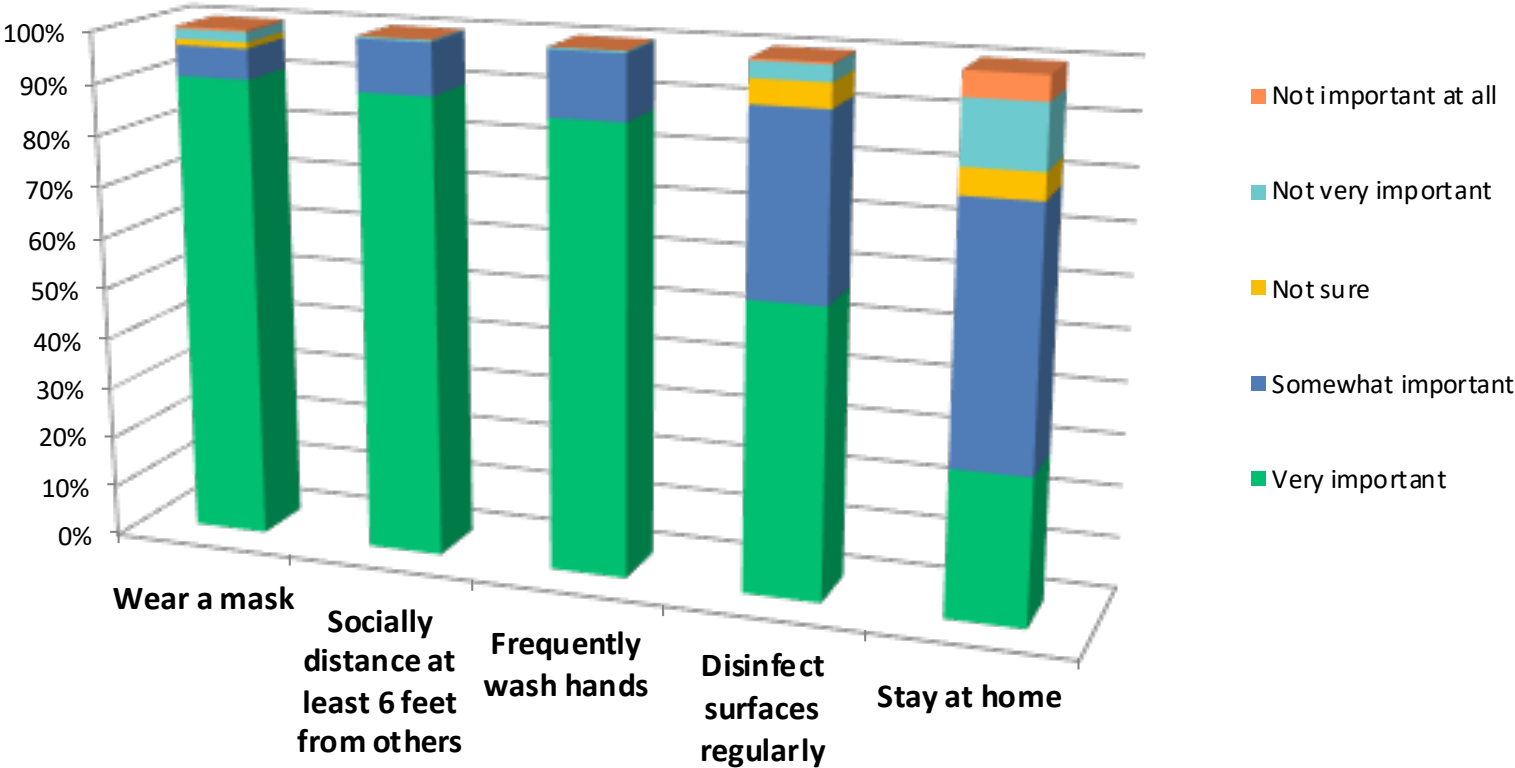
Top-line Results

- 99% feel informed and consider the CDC core safety measures (social distance, masks, hand washing, disinfection and staying home) important
- The top five concerns of respondents in order: 1) an outbreak in their family 2) an outbreak on the island 3) school and education 4) transportation 5) the island economy
- 71% of respondents felt the Island's overall response to the pandemic was very effective or extremely effective
- 83% felt communication about COVID-19 was very effective or extremely effective
- 75% ranked very effective to extremely effective for information about how to quarantine and isolate
- Less than 25% of the respondents would be willing to say something to another person who was not following the CDC safety measures (75% were unsure, unlikely or very unlikely to say something to another person)
- Majority of respondents are well informed from multiple sources, and consider the CDC as #1 source for information on COVID-19, and believed they and their neighbors were effective and doing their best to stay safe and follow CDC guidelines
- The lowest ranked COVID-19 response effort was for disinfecting public spaces, as the majority (60%) were unsure about efforts to sanitize
- The biggest split was on the question of the management of the island transition with Summer residents: 48% believed the it was very effective or extremely effective, while the majority were unsure or ranked the response as ineffective (14% not effective, 6% not effective at all).
- No significant difference in attitudes based on year-round or seasonal residence

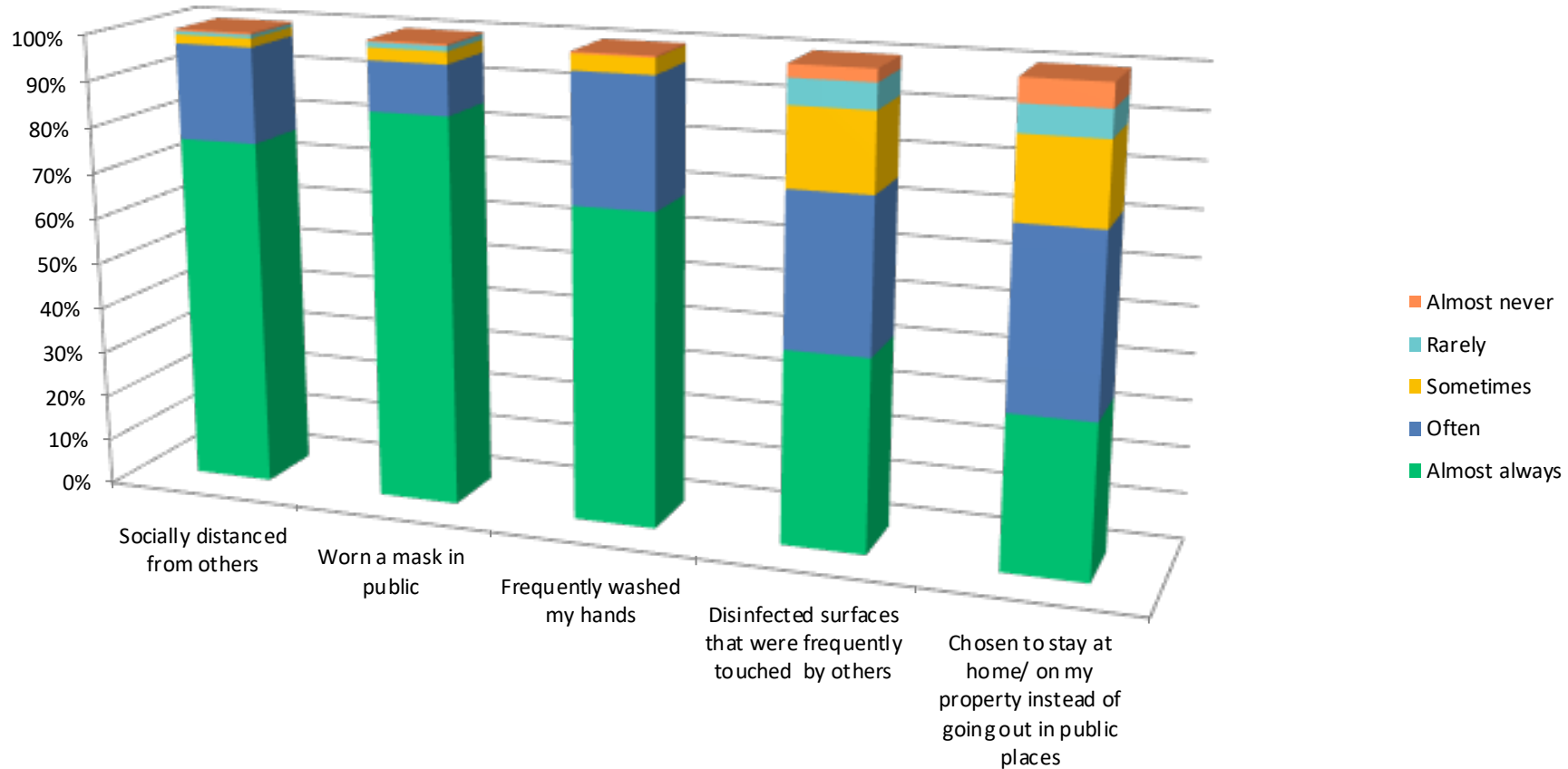
Q1: Overall, I understand what's happening with the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic (choose one)



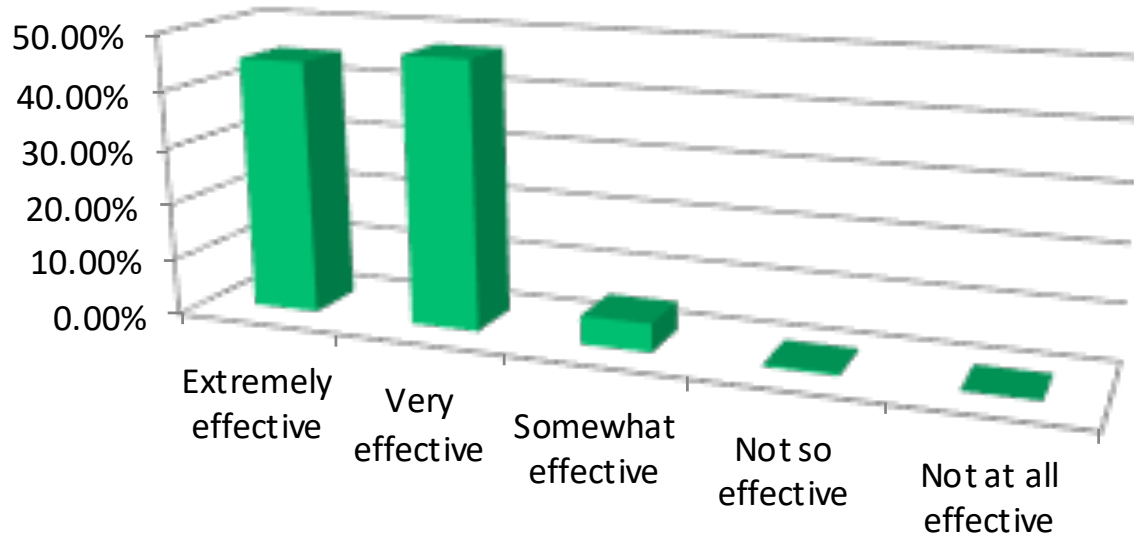
Q2: To best keep myself and others safe during the pandemic, I think it is important to.....



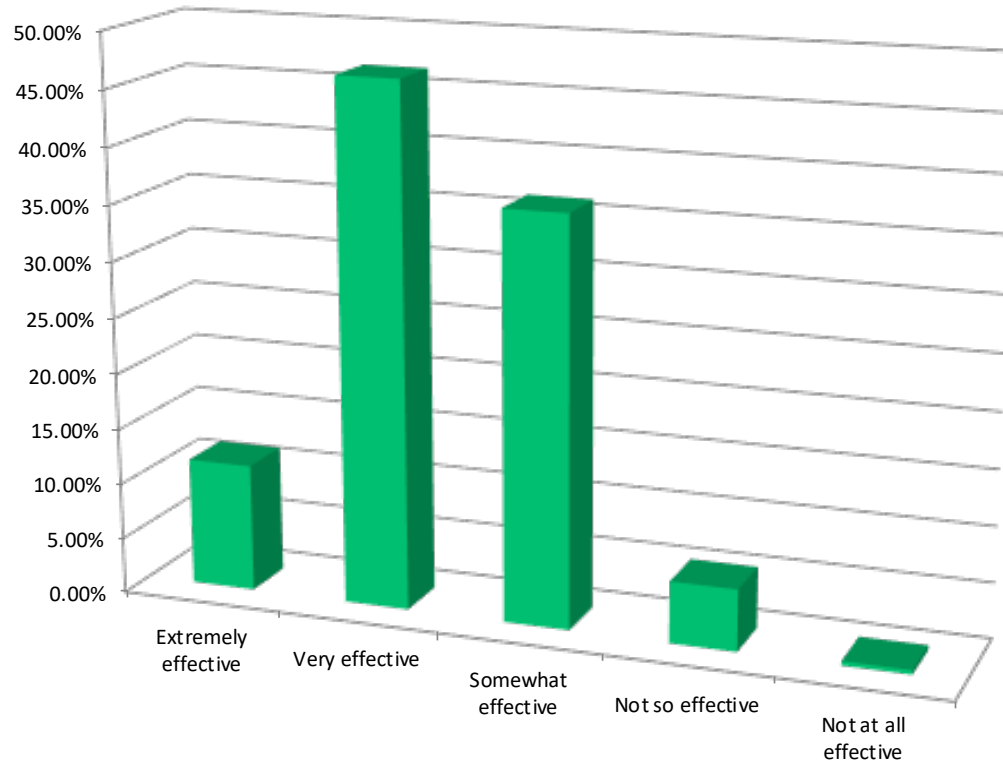
Q3-In the last two weeks, how often have I.....



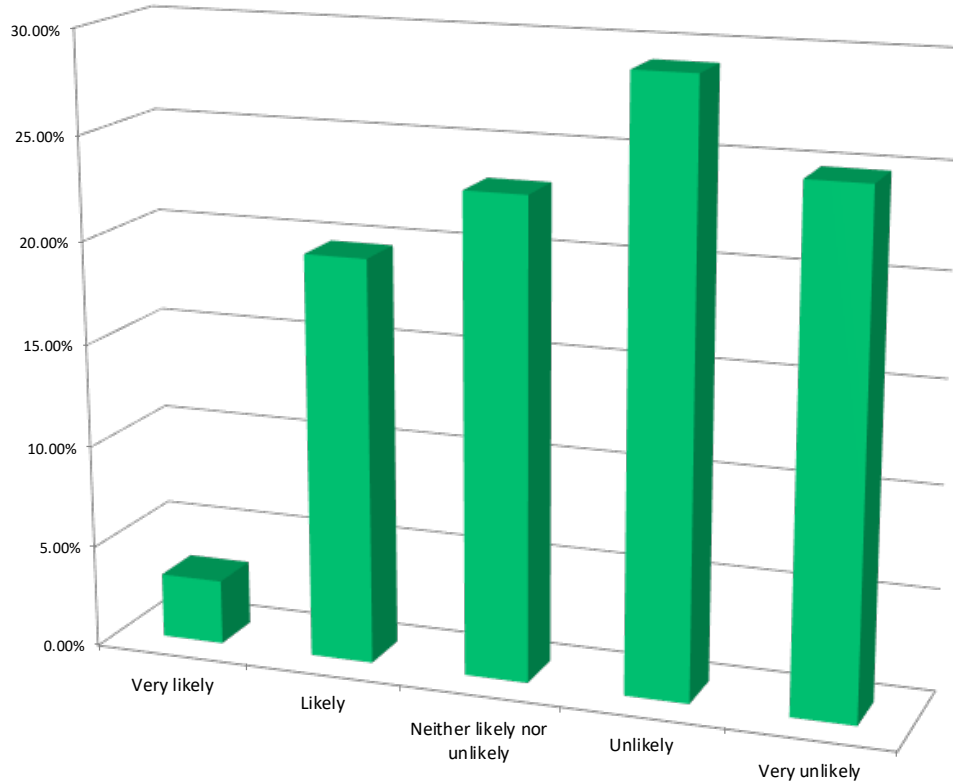
Q4: Overall, I would rate my own actions in terms of protecting myself and others on Chebeague from Covid-19 as:(
choose one)



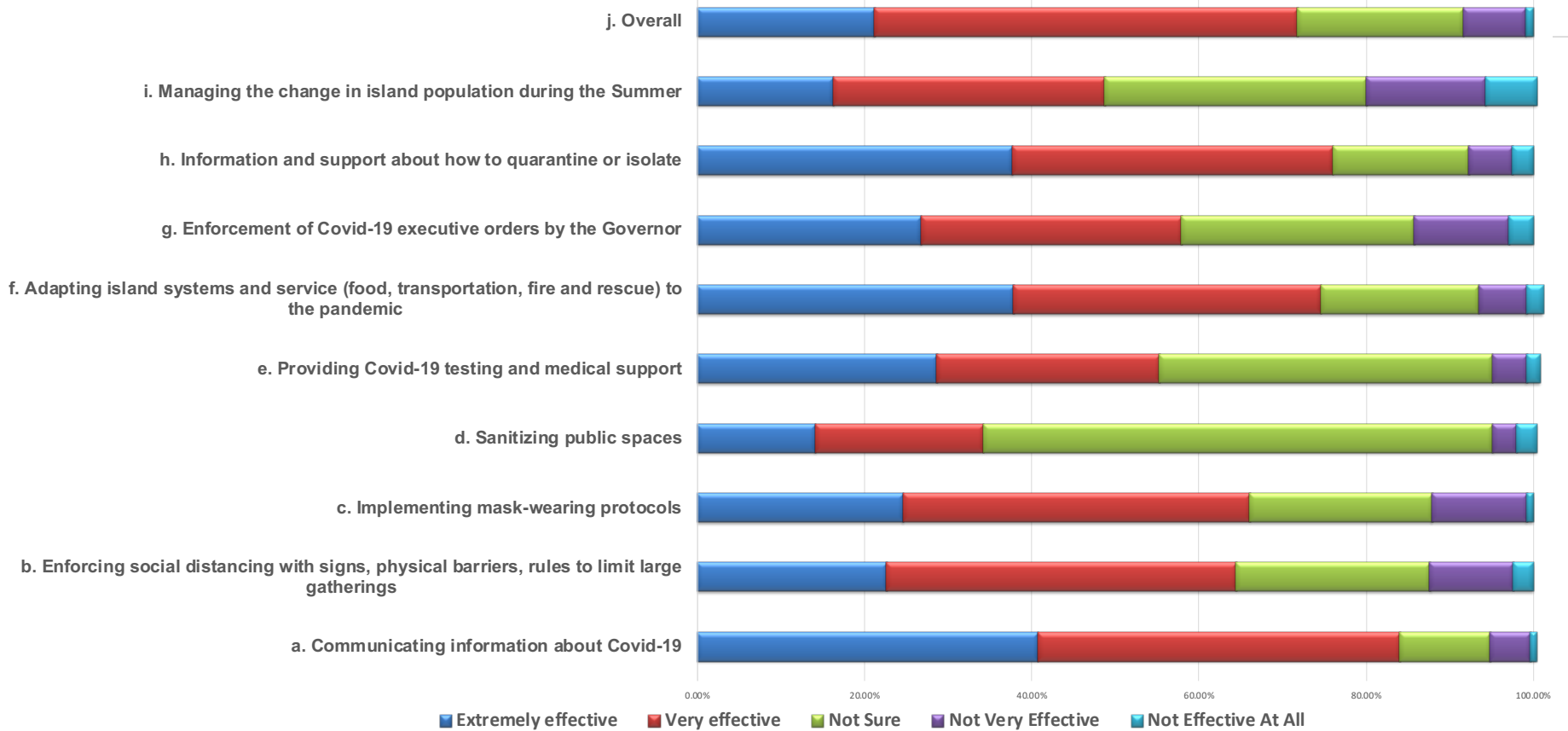
Q5:Overall, I would rate other people's actions overall in terms of protecting me and others on Chebeague from Covid-19 as:(choose one)



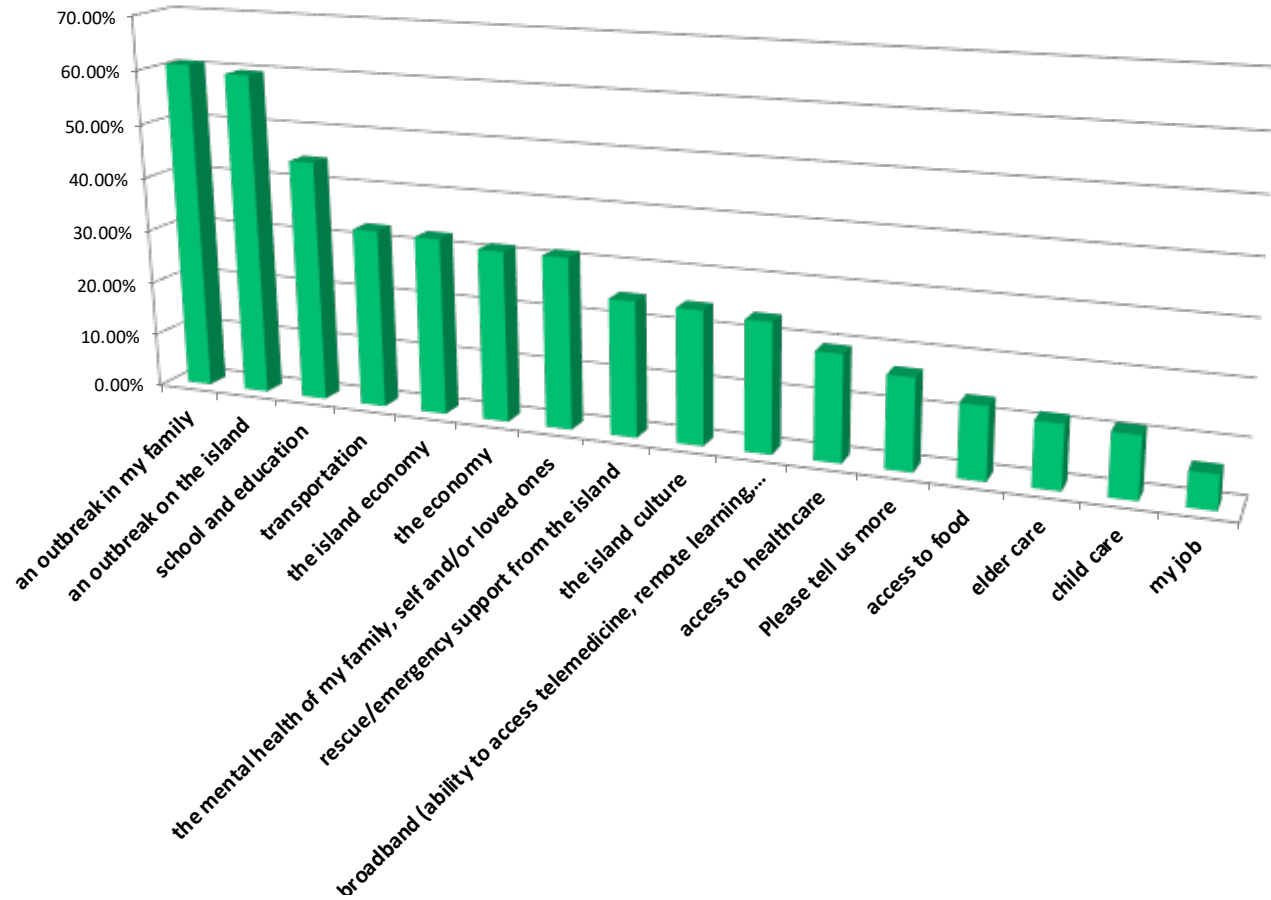
Q6: When I see someone from outside my household not following Covid-19 safety protocols, I speak directly to them and remind them of CDC guidelines (choose one)



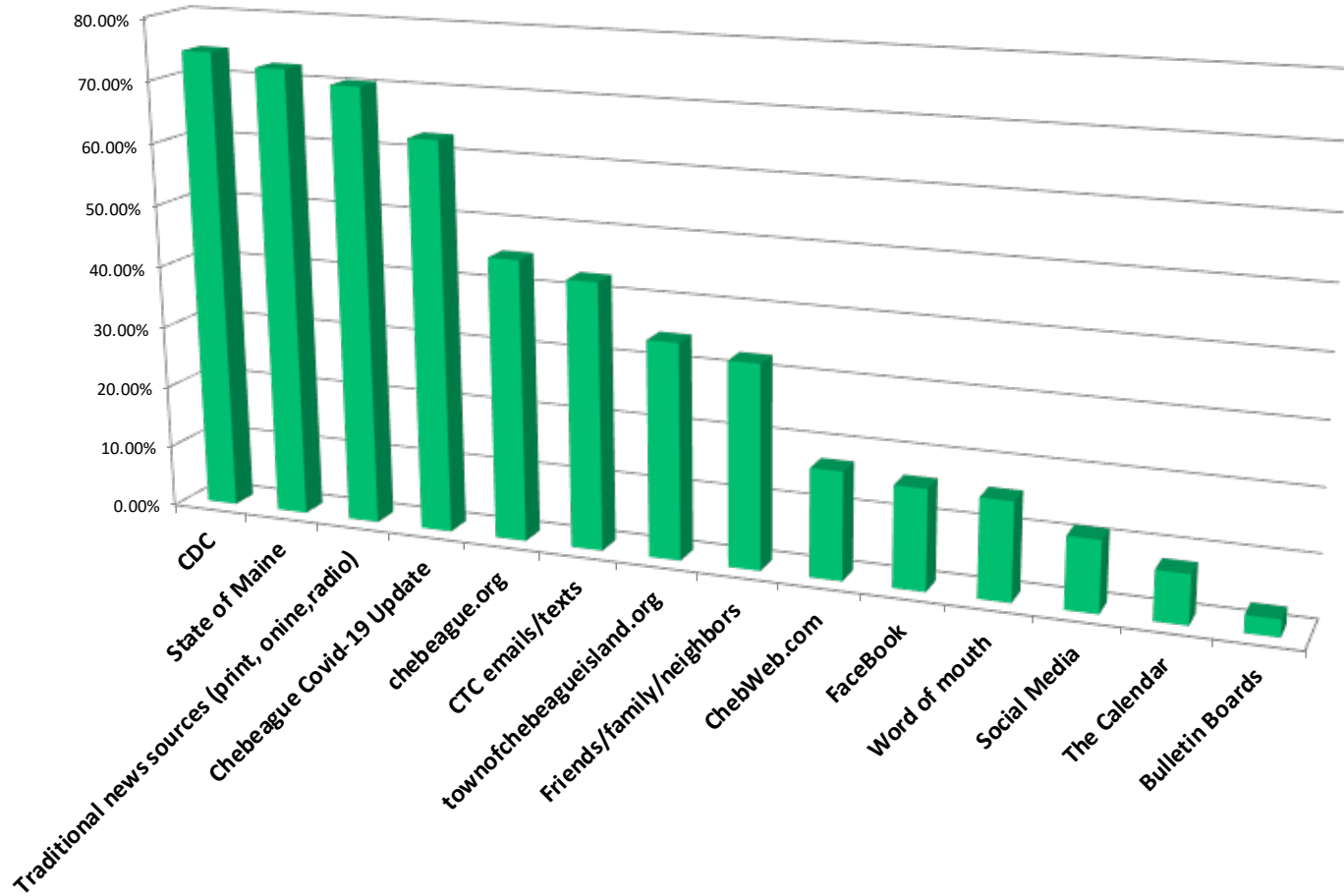
Q 7:How would you rate Chebeague's Covid-response efforts for:(check one for each category)



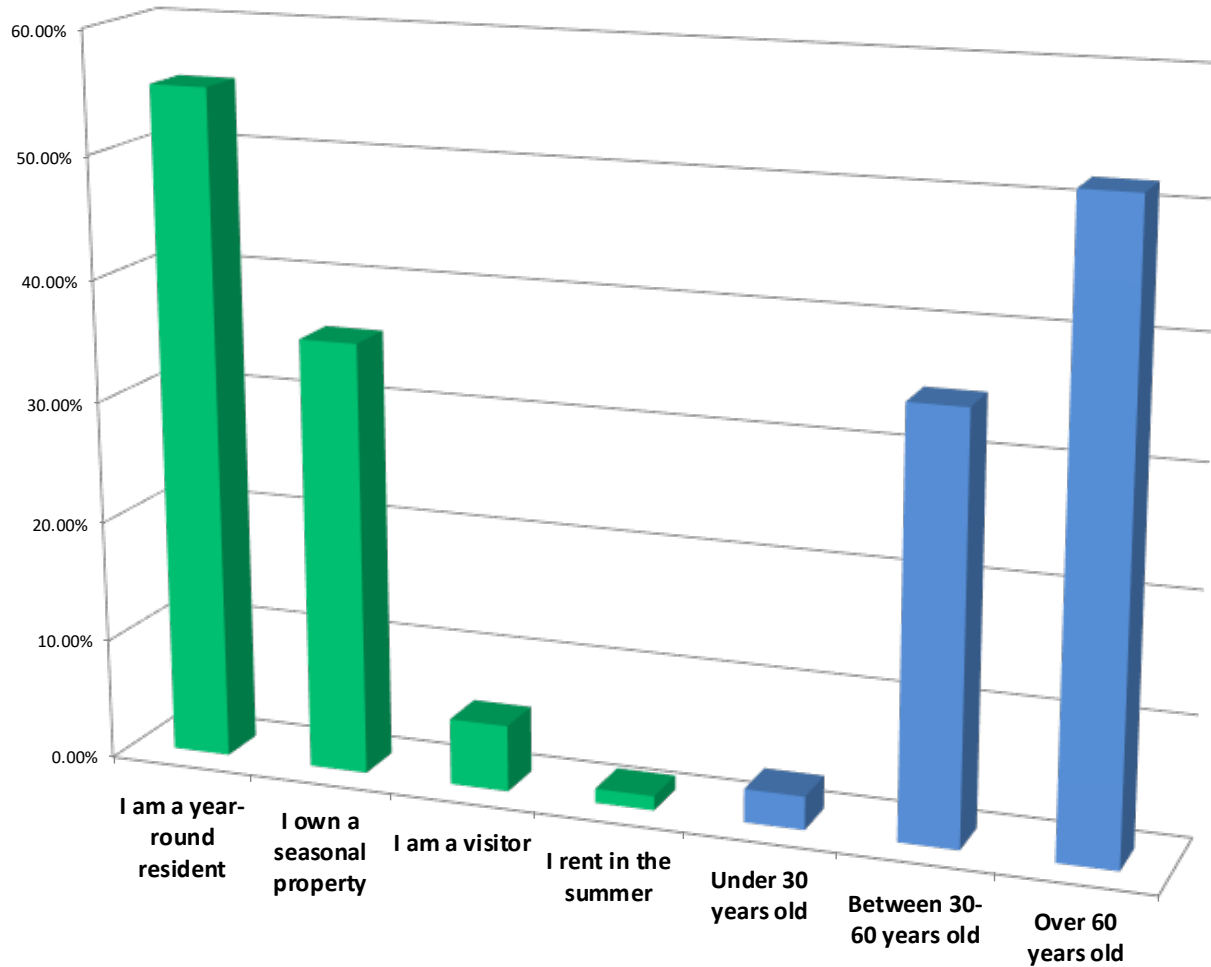
Q8:What are you MOST concerned about related to the virus?
(CHOOSE YOUR TOP FIVE)



Q9: I get my information about Covid-19 from (check all that apply)



Q10: The following describes me (select all that apply)



APPENDIX

SAMPLING OF COVID SURVEY COMMENTS

COMMENTS: Q2 “To best keep myself safe I ...”

All these things are a good idea indoors and/or in public per the CDC.

Use some common sense. The reaction to this pandemic has been just shy of hysteria and over-reach, particularly by CART, SORT, CRC and CTC. It is appalling that we have not combined smart regimen with perspective, statistical awareness and avoidance of hypocrisy.

Its frustrating that some interpret wearing a mask to mean all the time instead of ONLY when its not possible to socially distance.

As adults, I feel I follow the CDC guidelines (which change) and it is not my place to tell others what to do. People are emotionally fragile right now and having neighbors telling neighbors what to do like we are high school students is destructive to the community tapestry. Less hysteria, turn off the television now, everybody knows what to do, those who defy it, will do so anyway. A realistic assessment of how to support people, send messages of self-actualizing tasks, even the CDC discussed supporting ones health with food and supplements. It is unfortunate that the news is focused upon anxiety and fear, rather than upon health tasks, practices that are positive steps. The negative and fearful focus seems to persist upon a vaccine that is quite problematic to develop safely. In the meantime, that is much we can do to thrive, support our community and promote health.

be respectful of others

Limit use of public transportation to necessary travel

There is much that is not known about Covid-19 and it's transmission. We need to do important preventive things, but not get overwhelmed and isolated. Eventually various vaccines will emerge and learn to just live with it like the Flu, or Polio when I was a kid.

Make it easier for older summer people to come to the island. I know the residents of Chebeague come first. But you have to try to make it easier. For long time summer People who come from considerable distance to be able to come. Most of this group has been living in self imposed quarantine. Your. 72 hour before coming COVID -19 test is impractical , as tests results are generally not available for at least 48 hours. Then after a long drive you cannot even reserve seats on the bus!

COMMENTS: Q3 “ In the last two weeks, how often have I ...”

Use common sense. Avoiding gathering places makes sense whenever possible, but wholesale lockdown does not. As we have gained greater knowledge of how the virus spreads, it has been easier to manage and adapt routines. Too bad CTC hasn't changed much.

These are ridiculous questions. Some of us have jobs that require us to be out in public.

I follow CDC guidelines. question: how useful is it to know if one person chooses to stay home - the ridership on CTC tells all. People are home. Or they are here for their summer experience and will do what they will - there is a spectrum of response.

Have only been on Chebeague for 4 days. So far I have been to neighbor's house where we socially distanced and wore masks, to pick up groceries at Doughty's and to pick up someone from the Stone Wharf.

We go to the beach often but if we see people we know, we keep 6 ft apart.

Not everyone has the financial stability to weather this much longer.

Since we have so much wide open space and sea breezes on Chebeague its easier to go out to public places and still socially distance without a mask, for example at a big beach where people can easily be very far apart. Yet I also feel sad that there have been MANY times that I wanted to host or attend a gathering or be with others in usual summer activities (like visiting at the Commons or even just shopping at SchoolHouse Seconds) where the pandemic had a very negative impact on my summer enjoyment.

I wish I could do more. This situation has confined me from my family and friends.

Work on Island.

Leave my home to work full time. Going out in the world a bit more because trust distancing and realize covid is not leaving anytime soon.

COMMENTS: Q4 I think it is important to keep myself safe by...

I took every precaution getting there - bringing enough food for 2 weeks in case my test didn't come back, arriving on the barge, staying in covid-free hotel on the way up, shopping only hannafood 2 go, never left the island, etc. It was great all the advice and support we got to do it safely and to take getting there seriously.

I follow CDC guidelines, we have no way to know if it is really effective. The science is developing.

No science is truly settled, except when we agree to stop looking.

So effective is defined in this moment with so much unknown.

Effective is very different from "compliance" - a willingness to follow rules that change and are based upon a moving target -

Chebeague island has never been so disappointing in my life.

Have not been to Chebeague since onset

There's always room for improvement!

I assume my actions have been effective as I am unaware of transmitting virus to others and do not have virus.

I am not on the island so that is about as protective of Chebeague as I can be

Who knows? So far, so good but it's too soon to congratulate ourselves....

We've protected those on Chebeague by not coming to the island.

How many people do you expect to say "not at all effective"? These questions are written so the CART committee can pat themselves on the back as a job well done.

COMMENTS: Q6 “When I see someone not following CDC guidelines..”

I don't feel comfortable telling others what to do.

Preaching to them will not change their behavior

I am not a confrontational person and as a "summer" resident I don't want to tell islanders what to do. Mostly it was at the dump with work men or something like that.

I don't police my peers or pass judgement on others. I step away if I'm not comfortable.

I haven't had occasion (yet) to do this, But I would if I saw it.

Absolutely not! This is a great example of the over-reach that certain parties driving the COVID response have imparted throughout this experience. This is not a police state and people must take personal responsibility, while respecting the sphere of others.

The fact that almost \$70,000 of public money has been wasted on a group to 'encourage (i.e. enforce) CDC guidelines is SHAMEFUL. That money could have been used for preparing the school or other public facilities for social distancing. From the onset, CTC has reacted shamefully and should not have been permitted to duck their ambulatory responsibilities, promote non-resident vehicle discounts (at the expense of islanders), and cut boat trips, all the while making revenue from town-apportioned property (Blanchard lot). The purpose of masks is to prevent spread when 6' distancing can't be maintained. In contrast, our Fire & Rescue VOLUNTEERS were willing to put themselves in harm's way, while CTC wasn't; the Town Office has done a good job of being open and effective, while staying safe.

Out of respect, it is not my place and I don't want to add tension to an already tense environment.

Because it is my job to protect myself and my family. I am not an expert at what others do and don't do. Unless you live under a rock you know what to do. People do not need others to be policing whether they wear a mask or not. We are a small community that doesn't need to be reminded by know it all, controlling, too much time on their hands, do gooders looking for praise. Take it down a notch people!

I would refrain from any criticism of another person, especially now. Everybody knows what to do. People are fragile right now - I respectfully request this CART team consider the effect of intervening with criticism of a person's actions. You do not know their mental/emotional state. You do not know their medical status. One's well-intentioned comment could send someone into a state of anxiety that their neighbor is watching them and you will never know the extent of the anguish inflicted upon another member of this community. And this is happening.

COMMENTS: Q7 “How would you rate Chebeague’s response....”

Hard to manage a changing landscape. Good information available for those who want to make the effort to come.

These questions seem to have very little purpose. Is this for a pat on the back, or to see if a secret police should be established or what? Initially, we were horrid to those who pay taxes here from away. The Town Administrator’s comments/letters to the public were the only ones that seemed thoughtful, respectful and realistic.

I’m not sure if enforcement has been necessary.

The town has done a good job about communicating how locally things were being handled. Sometimes they have forgotten that it is about helping those in need and that not everyone fits that criteria. The town failed miserably by letting CTC implement all these rules and regulations about transportation. It started before Covid when they sadly refused to help citizens that need the MOST help by not allowing wheelchair assistance during certain tides. That was the beginning of the end. They should of had proper training of their deck hands & captain of how to use a wheel chair on the ramp. Just like every other island community. How it's always been. Then when they refused to take possible Covid patients. Sad. CTC has lost the ability to use common sense.

Very poor communication with summer residents and PROPERTY OWNERS

There is no enforcement if someone refuses to wear a mask. Signs are good but likely only the people who were going to wear a mask anyways take the signs seriously.

First time in my life that I want to leave Chebeague permanently.

I am hopeful that the tone of the island remains welcoming. Initially, there was clearly a divide where full time residents appreciated summer folks paying taxes, but were not wanting us to come even if we followed all the safety and health guidelines.

The island has done a good job.

As a seasonal "outsider", I definitely felt unwanted, estranged, and angry early on as some on the island (officially and behind the scenes) ranted about us coming to the island. My resentment mellowed as I understood the intensity of the fear that the virus engendered, and the typical year-round islanders' "insular" sentiments. Chebeaguers tend to feel, from my observation, that they inhabit (and have exclusive rights to) hallowed and safe space and that the outside world doesn't affect them.

COMMENTS:Q7 cont. “How would you rate Chebeague’s response...”

I think we have done an incredible job w/ communication.

Marjorie's letters have been informative, Bev's website has lots of information, and the videos have been helpful.

In regards to enforcing rules, I believe that individual operations have done a good job (Julie Doughty getting the highest mark), but I don't believe as a town Gov Mill's rules have been enforced. I don't think barging summer residents over at a cheaper discount for them to quarantine has been enforced at all. This is not CTC's fault as they offered this service to help our island community (and probably took a large profit loss) but who enforced on the other side?

I think the town has done a commendable job w/ limited resources to support the influx of packages, food shipments, and people at the Pier, however the Pier activity of young adults/teenagers has been alarming. I guess the question is who is responsible, the town or parents?

Overall, individual entities have done an amazing job at keeping their own space safe and to follow precautions (w/ minimal extra funding/supplies provided). I think the town has done a great job of disseminating information and putting up signs where necessary

I'm pleased with what the Town has done and their efforts at prevention. Majorie's letters have been very helpful

Double standard for year round vs seasonal. Mean & unwelcoming

The island is full of people who don't take the pandemic seriously at all and practice irresponsible behavior as a matter of course. Residents and visitors alike. There's no remedy for ignorance and stupidity.

There is an issue with gatherings on the beaches. For the past month people have been landing on beaches and staying for most of the day. Saturday, children used woods for toilet just below my home with parent present on beach. If they stay for 5 hours at a stretch and no facilities available? Also, using private beaches, not those open to public.

Signs are a waste of time.

I did hear that the town didn't sponsor testing and the church did instead and was appalled. I thought the initial response back in March was terrible, in that it seemed like the town was an ostrich with their head in the sand. It was heartening when a COVID task force was created and signs and masks made available. I'm happy that fire and rescue are wearing protective equipment during responses... have they changed anything else?

Comments: Q8 “ I am most concerned about... (top 5)”

Feel for the impact on everyone. So much is unknown. Hope we all survive this!

We will adapt. Every generation has been through something. I don't need a ridiculous sign on the beach to tell me I need to socially distant or wear a mask. It's so sad that all that grant money is being wasted on employing people that think its important to have a sign on every corner telling you stuff you already know. It should be used to have programs for kids at the rec-center to help parents that need to work! Or for PPE for our EMS volunteers! Or help CTC bring back a late boat so those of us that have to work off island late can actually do so and get home!

We are wrecking our own economy with fear. Balance the fear and we will manage the changes needed. We need to get back to work, attend to better health practices.This is not really about COVID. Not really. Think, people.There is much more to this story.

I believe we still have a long row to hoe and that in general the Island community At large has done a good job. The population will wind down and we can hit the proverbial re-set while continuing to be diligent at keeping the Virus at bay.

I think a lot of time was spent early on chasing our tail. For everyone, COVID 19 is a scary disease and there were many unknowns in April and May when summer folks were starting to arrive. However, the "us" (year rounders) vs. them (summer residents) was disheartening and I hope moving forward this doesn't happen. My biggest fear in all of this is my family (which is also this community) and transportation. I worry about transportation for a loved one if they get sick and my ability to get back and forth to work. I would struggle to tell people I have COVID, not that I don't want to protect this community but the pointing fingers vs. care is clear and I am not sure I want to face that here. Thankfully, Marjorie did address this in one of her letters but still the culture piece is important to change.

The divisive nature of this and the difficulty will further push Chebeague into a retirement community only.

Whatever the reason we have made it into August with a very low number of known infections and no deaths. Unless there is a virus mutation, in my opinion, it would appear we are managing the issue of infection well.

Relationship of seasonal vs year round has been damaged permanently

We need to ensure the CTC survives through this challenge. Better broadband seems like the answer to many of the concerns (job, health, transportation)

Comments: Q8 cont “I am most concerned about (top 5)...”

The virus is a health threat, for sure, but its threat to the economic and social sustainability of the island is very alarming. Economically speaking, the fishermen are hurting, commuters are vulnerable to job loss/diminution, Town coffers will take a negative hit, CTC is bleeding red ink, and other island enterprises (for-profit & non-profit) are (I'm certain) seeing reduced revenues.

Socially, a further gap has opened between the year-round population and their seasonal friends and (most important) benefactors.

Seasonal residents pay approximately 73% of property taxes, generously support the non-profits, and provide extensive revenues to island businesses. A reduced presence/participation of seasonal residents would be the death of Chebeague as we know it. This word needs to be spread to keep the naysayers at bay and in their place. School, roads, CTC all would evaporate without the seasonals. Period.

The island has a wonderful community but at this time I have been confined with the exception of the two times I have left the island, since March 5. It looks like this may continue for another six months. The community is strong and as helpful as can be but, I am lonely although not alone. Soon the summer people will go home and the island will be safer.

What makes Chebeague, Chebeague. In all honesty I am typically someone who is all for telling other people how great this island is, but since Mid-March I have hated the idea of having any connection with it, yet it is where I live. I have worked for years to make this my home and no longer want anything to do with it because of the way people have been reacting to this pandemic.

I've been very worried about how year-round residents will feel about part-time residents. We are worried that part-time residents and visitors could ignore the fact that year-round residents are at risk and behave irresponsibly, and therefor cause a us vs. them attitude that has not be prevalent to date on the island. That's why we've stayed away to date. If we come, we will be tested prior to coming.

Chebeague continues to care for their own and their neighbors