



# CHEBEAGUE ISLAND *Maine*

June 15, 2020

Dear Chebeague Island Community,

Summer on Chebeague is upon us. We want to thank everyone for the steps you've been taking to help slow the spread of COVID-19. By practicing social distancing, staying safe by being home, wearing a mask in public places, and washing your hands, you are helping to flatten the curve and keep our community safe. We have been through a lot in the past few months and now we are beginning to enjoy the longer, sunnier days. We have helped one another in many seen and unseen ways during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each of us has had to rethink daily life. There has been wave after wave of change.

Since my last letter in May, several key changes have been implemented by State of Maine Governor Janet Mills. Last week the Governor announced [Keep Maine Healthy: A Plan for Tourism in Maine Amid COVID-19](#). Effective June 26, Maine will have two options for visitors from other states: 1) getting a recent negative COVID-19 test; or 2) maintaining compliance with a 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Maine. Visitors from New Hampshire and Vermont are exempt from these requirements.

Seasonal homeowners, workers traveling to Maine, and other visitors may also utilize a recent negative COVID-19 test as an alternative to the required 14-day quarantine in Maine effective immediately. Whatever path you choose, you will be responsible for compliance with the most recent guidance. There really is no way for the Town of Chebeague Island to police everyone to make sure you either have a negative COVID-19 test or quarantine for 14 days. If you would voluntarily like to give the Town information about your plans, you can email or call me at [townadmin@townofchebeagueisland.org](mailto:townadmin@townofchebeagueisland.org) or 207-846-3148. This is completely voluntary.

This changes the options for many of our seasonal residents and friends. It will likely increase the island population quickly as we are reunited on the island. As we enjoy the beautiful outdoor spaces and

natural beauty of the island, please remember your responsibility to social distance and wear a mask when it is appropriate.

We continue to encourage people to plan very carefully for your arrival on Chebeague. Bring as many supplies as you can. We will all have to find a delicate balance of staying on island to reduce our trips and exposure to COVID-19, but not put too much strain on our delivery team (USPS, FEDEX, UPS) and the Transfer Station. The cardboard load is unprecedented.

With these changes and forward momentum, it is still important for each of us to remember we are in a state of emergency and there is no cure or vaccine for COVID-19 yet. With the measured opening up of the economy and the beautiful summer weather, we may lose sight of that reality. We cannot let our guard down when it comes to taking precautionary measures and stopping the spread of COVID-19.

Our dedicated and experienced Chebeague Fire and Rescue remains ready to respond immediately to any 911 call. While they are as ready as ever, there has never been a better time to stay healthy. The majority of COVID-19 positive cases recover, and do so from the comforts of their own homes, so it is a good idea to have a good first aid kit at home and be prepared.

Science is proving that we can fight this highly contagious but fragile virus with the right protection. Please wear a mask in all public places, such as, the CTC and CBL boats, at the Town Office, the Island Market and especially the Transfer Station. One of the best public signs I saw put it this way, "You wear a mask and you protect me. I wear a mask and I protect you."

We are learning the steps we need to take to protect each other, at home, work and at play. We all can take a moment to think of where we have come from since March. Everyone has played a part in the effort to stop the spread of this dangerous virus. As we enter into the summer season we all love so much, remember that all of our actions are connected. We can prevent the spread of COVID-19 and make it through the pandemic if we keep up the good work that got us here.

Be safe, be kind and listen to one another,

Marjorie A. Stratton  
Town Administrator