



CHEBEAGUE ISLAND *Maine*

November 6, 2020

Dear Chebeague Island Community,

Last June, our Town of Chebeague Island received a ***Keep Maine Healthy*** grant to **protect, prepare** and **respond** in our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. We considered many avenues for using the funds in cooperation with island stakeholders and groups. We soon realized that keeping our community healthy really begins with each of us individually, in partnership with the Town, Rescue, and island nonprofits. We're pleased to use the grant to help each of us do our best to be safe.

COVID is airborne spread and masks are really the #1 way to prevent the virus from spreading. We all have different reactions to wearing masks, but the reality is that there are places and times in the new version of our lives, where masks are needed to keep each other safe and healthy. Just yesterday, [Governor Janet Mills announced that masks are mandated in all public settings.](#)

Let us introduce the kn95 mask. When used correctly, this [mask provides excellent protection in BOTH directions.](#) The average cotton mask protects others from us. The kn95 is made with special fibers that protect both the person wearing it and those around them.

The [Keep Maine Healthy grant](#) allowed for the purchase, in bulk, of kn95 masks for everyone on the island (including a compostable cardboard storage case). The kn95 mask is not necessarily an everyday mask. It is for use in any situation where extra protection is needed: when social distancing is not possible, inside a building or enclosed space without fresh air, or whenever someone feels the need for extra protection.

This weekend, volunteers will be delivering a paper bag containing kn95 masks with a storage case on the doorstep of every Chebeague house known to have someone living in it now. We have to rely on our best local knowledge to know the houses and number of inhabitants. If you'd like, you could assist in this effort by taping a piece of paper with the number on your door of how many people are living in your home.

When you receive your household bag, please read the information about how to care for your kn95 masks and the best way to use them. To be clear, the places you choose to wear this safe mask is entirely up to you. You decide how and when to best protect yourself and others. The optimal times for your kn95 mask: when you are inside a building, an enclosed space, or when you may be too close to others. Other times, you might use your everyday masks. For some people, they will use the kn95 more often, for others, the kn95 might be saved for emergencies.

After delivering the kn95 masks this weekend, more masks will be available. The supply is not unlimited, but if you need another mask, or not enough have been delivered to your house, there will be more masks available.

The kn95 masks are the central part of Chebeague's "**Spread Thanks, Not COVID**" campaign that begins now until Thanksgiving. As Maine face's a new rise in positive COVID-19 cases, this kn95 mask is a positive tool to help everyone do their best and be as safe as possible.

Thank you to the State for Chebeague's Keep Maine Healthy grant, and thank everyone on the Island for doing your part.

If you have any other questions, curiosities or need more info, please don't hesitate to contact us at: townofchebeaguecovid19@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Eliza Jane Adams
Erika Neumann
Keep Maine Healthy Team



SPREAD THANKS, NOT COVID
Stand Strong Together