

CCTT Update: May 19, 2021

Dear Chebeague residents and visitors,

The Chebeague Covid-19 Test Team (CCTT) has concluded that it is time to disband our on-island testing services. We have been pleased to serve the island's needs for viral and rapid testing, Covid-19 general information, vaccination, and local outreach.

The CCTT team was originally set up to help anyone with symptoms to find out if they had Covid-19, avoid a trip to the mainland and reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19. When CCTT was created early in the pandemic, it was very difficult to find a place to get tested for Covid-19 on the mainland. In addition, no vaccines were available. All that has changed! We are happy to report that the work of the team has resulted in nearly 400 tests, and only rare, isolated cases of Covid 19 on Chebeague despite a serious spike in the pandemic on the mainland.

After our testing was up and running, we partnered with the Rec Center, CART and Maine CDC to offer four on-island vaccine clinics. We vaccinated more than one hundred people on-island. The creation of the voluntary vaccine registry helped us learn that as of today, about 80% of Chebeague residents have received a Covid-19 vaccine. We have coordinated with most island organizations, particularly the CTC - and support the stricter protocols for public transportation that prevent spread. The CCTT strongly encourages people coming to Chebeague Island to please be vaccinated first.

The need for our services is waning, thus the CCTT will be disbanding as of Thursday morning, May 27th. The team is accepting requests for tests up to that time and some testing events may be set up thereafter depending on volunteer availability. We are pleased to see that testing on the mainland is much more accessible with nearly 50 testing options in Cumberland County. To locate a nearby testing site, you can easily access info at the Maine CDC website:

<https://www.maine.gov/covid19/keepmainehealthy/testing>.

Also, to find out about vaccination sites, click this link:

<https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines>

Thank you everyone - including all the CART and CCTT volunteers, and especially to Melissa Yosua-Davis who led the way to secure a generous Recompense grant to fund the CCTT. Under Melissa's leadership, and with the fiscal sponsorship from the island church, this endeavor was made possible.

With gratitude,
Jenny Hackel, NP
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