

# **TOWN OF LONG ISLAND, MAINE**

## **COVID – 19 UPDATES**

**DATE: March 20, 2020**

### **LONG ISLAND FIRE & RESCUE (LIF&R)**

Per the Maine CDC, COVID-19 has reached the community spread level in Cumberland County. LIF&R wants to provide an overview of symptoms and procedures for how it would handle a potential COVID 19 EMS call. The virus is clinically defined as having any combination of fever, dry cough, and shortness of breath.

You should first call your primary care provider (PCP) if you begin to have any combinations of these symptoms before you call 911. Your PCP will recommend that you stay home, self-monitor and self-isolate if your symptoms do not require emergency care. This puts the fewest people at risk of contracting the illness. If you do not have a PCP, call 211 and they will place you in contact with a health care professional to assist you.

If your PCP recommends testing, Casco Bay Lines is prepared to transport individuals who need to go to Portland but do not require emergent transport. With the changes to the ferry schedule being adjusted, we ask you to please contact your PCP within a reasonable amount time so as to make the next boat. Please arrive at Mariners Wharf 5 minutes before the scheduled departure, once all passengers are on board the ferry, approach the plank and inform the crew that you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and have been asked to come to Portland to get tested by your PCP. The crew will instruct you to place a mask on, provided by them and direct you to a secluded area on the boat to sit for the duration of the trip. Let all passengers disembark the vessel in Portland before you do.

If your situation changes and you need emergency care, please only call 911.

Responders will meet at the fire station then proceed to the scene in the ambulance with all the necessary personal protective equipment on board.

Responders will make contact with the patient, maintaining a separation distance of 6 feet. If there is indication the patient has symptoms of COVID-19, the providers will don appropriate PPE outside the building and a limited crew will enter the building to assess the patient. The patient will be given a mask to wear. If transport to Portland is required, accompanying family member must take their own vehicle to the wharf.

We will take care to only expose a limited number of responders to the patient with a suspected case of COVID-19. We will also take care to not expose the captains on the Rescue Boat. We will have the cabin split, with just the captains riding in the forward cabin and the patient, EMS providers and any family members in the aft compartment. The boat and ambulance will require extensive decontamination upon return to the island.

It is imperative that you honestly answer the 911 dispatchers' questions regarding fevers, cough, shortness of breath and any questions on travel history. This will give the responders the most information possible to help protect themselves from potentially contracting COVID-19 and keeping our limited number of responders ready to respond to any emergency that may arise.

LIF&R thanks you for your understanding and assistance during this pandemic event.

**LONG ISLAND SCHOOL**  
**(Excerpts from Superintendent Powers Letter to Parents Today)**

School closure will be extended until April 27, or the Monday after the scheduled school vacation week. This adjusted return date will be the announcement from all Maine school districts. With Gov. Mills requiring group gatherings of 10 or less until mid-April, it's only to be expected that schools will follow suit. This is a "hoped for" opening date, which of course is predicated on the public health challenge of COVID-19 improving in our region.

This closure is not a happy choice for any of us but it's the only prudent path right now. Please know we will continue to do our best to keep distance learning well supported, to assist with emotional health concerns, and to be available for any of your questions or ideas. Using technology to connect teachers and their children is going to be a big part of our strategy. I've now participated in online ZOOM conferences with Mrs. Norton's read aloud and Mrs. Train's sharing of her research voyage and it was amazing to see how well this worked and the engagement of the

children. Next week this online strategy will be used for more robust instructional purposes, which will be continuously monitored for effectiveness. Mrs. Brown also intends to offer further support of art projects through ideas and supplies she will provide.

## **VEHICLES & TRAILERS**

**(Forwarded by Tax Collector on Governors Emergency Declaration)**

- All registrations, including temporary registrations for vehicles, boats, atvs, snowmobiles and trailers that expire during the period of the state emergency are deemed extended until 20 days after the state of emergency is terminated.
- The extension does not change the registration interval. All fees that would have been due are still due within 30 days of the termination of the state of emergency.
- The online renewal systems (Rapid Renewal and MOSES) are to be turned on for all municipalities even if they current do not participate and will stay on until 30 days after the state of emergency is terminated.

The important notice here is “expires during”. Registrations that expired before the state of emergency was declared would not qualify for the extension the way it’s worded (i.e. all boats which expired in December). This is why they are turning on the online systems to everyone so people can renew those boats online if needed.

“Temporary registrations” should cover Maine dealer sales but private sales and out of State dealer sales will not have a way to complete the registration process. Even in the Secretary of State’s press release he indicated that new registration could not be completed.

## **RETURNING TO THE ISLAND FROM TRAVEL**

Another reminder that the Town has no medical facilities or staff and our EMS is manned by volunteers. We wish to convey to all returning residents, coming home from anywhere, to follow the CDC advice concerning social distancing, self-monitoring, staying home if sick, and practicing good hygiene to prevent the spread of the disease. The most important concern for all is that if someone is infected or exposed that they remember that our current population is almost 75% high risk due to age and underlying conditions.

