

The Select Board feel it is important to convey to our residents what steps the Town is taking with the current Covid-19 issue. Although the virus has not yet been identified in Maine, it is important that the Town be prepared for what could likely affect us in foreseeable future.

The Long Island School, overseen by Barbara Powers, is keeping this all in the context of their normal protocols during flu season, but also will be paying close attention to CDC and Maine Department of Education directives that could suggest a stronger course of action such as moving learning off campus and into homes. They will be discussing how that might best happen if such action becomes necessary and/or prudent.

At the same time, our Island EMS staff have been reviewing the safe response protocol for all rescue calls. They have instituted the recommended actions of the Maine CDC and are in daily communication with Cumberland County Dispatch for updates. It is important to remember that if you need medical help to **call 911**, and please answer all the questions that you are asked to help our response team.

The Town will continue to monitor the situation through the Maine CDC and local County agencies and be prepared to adjust as needed. Gatherings such as soup lunches, pot lucks and Town Meeting will continue, but you may see protocols such as hand sanitizers being applied when entering, and other adjustment as needed. We thank Casco Bay Lines for the new hand sanitizer stations on the boats. Use them to keep you and your fellow islanders safe.

Please keep checking in on your neighbors, especially the elderly who are in a high-risk group. Pay attention to notices from the CDC and use your best judgement as you filter what comes through on the news. Social media and rumors are not your best source of factual information. There is a lot of continually-updated information on two useful websites:

Maine Center for Disease Control: [www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc)

Maine Department of Education: [www.maine.gov/doe](http://www.maine.gov/doe).

Wash and sanitize your hands frequently and try to keep your hands away from your face. Washing hands for a least 20 seconds with soap and water is the first line of defense against contracting and/or spreading viruses. To keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should;

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Take this time to teach children good hand hygiene by making it a teaching moment and not something to be afraid of or a chore.

Please contact the Town Administrator [townadmin@longislandmaine.org](mailto:townadmin@longislandmaine.org) or reach out to Wellness Council members if you have questions or suggestions.

Regards

Joe Donovan

Chair

Long Island Select Board

***Added note: The Long Island Fire Department EMS needs volunteers. Please contact Will Tierney or Sam Whitener as they prepare a list for training of potential new EMT's, AVOC (ambulance) drivers and Rescue Boat Captains. It is a great feeling to be there for your Island!***