

TOWN OF LONG ISLAND, MAINE
COVID – 19 SELECTMEN LETTER TO THE TOWN

UPDATED: Tuesday, April 14, 2020

This letter to Town's citizens is based on our most up to date info. As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, by the time you read this, things may have changed. The Selectmen, working with the Town Administrator are placing regular updates on the Town Website townoflongisland.us and through the LICA List Serve. The information is also usually posted on the Long Island Facebook page by others. Keep in mind that the only official information is posted on the Town Website and we are very grateful to Curt Murley for keeping this site up to date.

The Select Board have voted to postpone the annual Town Meeting until Saturday June 13th. We feel that having the budget and elected officials confirmed prior to the end of the current fiscal year (June 30) will be better than postponing longer. The issue of how and where to hold the meeting while maintaining social distance will be discussed as we go along. Pre-Town meeting public hearings will be adjusted accordingly.

The Selectmen have been concerned for the safety for the Town staff, its citizens and the EMS staff that volunteer so much to help this community. Our decisions are based on the COVID-19 risk, the current underlying physical and mental health of the residents, and helping everyone ride this out with what they need to feel safe.

The only facilities operating at this time are the Boat House Store for pick-up orders only, the gas pump twice a week at this time (under new ownership!), and the Transfer Station for household waste only. The Transfer Station is continuing on Winter hours but we have added a second pickup weekly on Thursday to reduce traffic at the station. Construction and heavy waste will be accepted only by appointment and at the discretion of the operators. Town Hall is closed through at least April 30th but is conducting business through e-mail. All contact information is on the Town

Web Site. The school is closed to classroom teaching until further notice and the entire Learning Facility (school, auditorium, and library, as well as the Community Center are closed to all but essential personnel. The Wellness Center is closed until Maine Health is able to start up their visits again.

RETURNING ISLAND RESIDENTS/VISITORS

(See Maine Governor Mills Executive Order Below)

We are asking residents who are returning to the island from winter stays or vacations elsewhere to be responsible and heed the current warnings coming from the Federal and State CDC offices concerning travel and the risk of spread. The Town continues to request that you follow the Governor's Executive Order with a two-week self-quarantine and planning on minimum or no contact with other Islanders during that period of time if you **must** return. We are also asking those that provide short term rentals to reconsider those rentals in the near term to again minimize the spread.

The Select Board is not ordering anyone to do these things as we may have no authority to do so, nor would we even with that authority. Many of you worked your entire life to own a piece of the Island and it is your decision. It makes no difference if you are a long time Islander or new to our community, we understand the stress that you are all under.

But please consider the risk you expose your community to by coming to the Island. Our community has an aging population and our resources are stretched. We don't have the ability to help care for you if you get sick. You would have to go to the mainland which is already feeling the strain. Casco Bay Lines has reduced service to 3 boats a day which greatly hinders travel.

It would be a great help to us if you stayed where you are right now. We appreciate you as you are all family and you are what make this Island what it is to so many. We look forward to seeing you when the pandemic

passes. Again, if you are determined to return to the island, we urge you to bring your own food, pharmaceuticals and other needed supplies with you so as not to diminish the limited supplies available on the island as you self-quarantine for the recommended 14 days.

Finally- I would like to express my and the Town's thanks and admiration for all of the Long islanders that have fought the urge, desire and the need to get home to the Island. Staying the course through this may well be the most difficult decision any one of us have had to make in our life. The year-round residents appreciate the respect you have shown for your neighbors and hope soon we can do something for those who stayed away to show our appreciation.

Thank you again and hang in there. This soon will pass; we will be better neighbors and friends for it. We will be here waiting for you- hopefully with hugs and not just a 6-foot hand wave.

Joe Donovan, for the Long Island Selectboard

Governor Mills Issues Executive Order Mandating Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in Maine to Protect Public Health and Safety

April 3, 2020

Governor Janet Mills today [issued an Executive Order](#) mandating that travelers arriving in Maine, regardless of their state of residency, self-quarantine for 14 days to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The Order, which directs the Maine Department of Transportation, the Maine Turnpike Authority, and others to post this guidance at all major points of entry into the State, exempts individuals who are providing essential services as defined by Governor Mills' March 24 [Executive Order \(PDF\)](#).

“To slow the spread of this deadly virus and prevent our health care system from being overwhelmed, we must all do our part,” said Governor Mills. “I am mandating that anyone entering Maine self-quarantine for 14 days and abide by Maine’s Stay Healthy at Home Order. These actions will protect the health and safety of everyone.”

Additionally, the Order instructs visitors not to travel to Maine if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 and advises them not to travel to Maine if they are traveling from cities or regions identified as COVID-19 hot spots.

To deter travel, the Order also suspends lodging operations, including hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, inns, and short-term rentals such as those available through VRBO Airbnb, RV parks and campgrounds, and all public and private camping facilities as well as online reservations effective April 5, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

However, the Order states that lodging can be provided for housing vulnerable populations – such as for children in emergency placements, persons at risk of domestic violence, and homeless individuals as permitted by the State – and for accommodations for health care workers or other workers deemed necessary to support public health, public safety, or critical infrastructure.

While Governor Mills hopes compliance with this Order will be voluntary, it may also be enforced by law enforcement, as necessary. Individual violations of this Order may be charged as a Class E crime subject to a penalty of up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Additionally, any lodging, park, or campground operator who violates this Order may be construed as violating any license, permit or other authorization to operate and be subject to appropriate penalties.

“We are facing one of the greatest public health crises of the world in more than a century. But if we pull together, we can and will defeat this virus,” said Governor Mills. “Maine is a welcoming state, and we welcome the many servicemembers and medical professionals and others who are coming here to help us. I ask Maine people not to make assumptions about others, and we welcome the cooperation of other visitors and returning residents in quarantining themselves and keeping us all safe in accordance

with this order. Let us treat all people in Maine with compassion and kindness. That is how we will get through this.”

The Order is effective immediately and extends until at least April 30, 2020.

[Read the Executive Order \(PDF\)](#). For the latest information and guidance on Maine’s response to COVID-19 please visit coronavirus.maine.gov.