

March 26th, 2020

To Stonington Residents and Visitors—

Due to Maine CDC-recommended social distancing to combat the spread of COVID-19, we have closed the Town Hall to the public. However, operations are still running as much as possible, and we continue to monitor our phone (207-367-2351), fax (207-367-6361), and mail (PO Box 9, Stonington, ME, 04681), as well the drop box located on the side of the Town Hall and our individual email addresses. Other Town departments are doing the same, while practicing social distancing and sanitizing public areas as necessary. For a complete listing of Town departments and their contact information, please visit our website: www.stoningtonmaine.org.

Over the past weeks, there have been a few concerns brought to our attention. We would like to take this time to address these concerns:

- For seasonal residents already here, we recommended you please observe the CDC guidelines and stay in place for 14 days to prevent the virus spreading and overwhelming our health care system. As Governor Janet Mills recently noted, you are not safe from COVID-19 in Maine, so all precautions must be observed.
- For seasonal residents thinking of coming up: we recommend you remain in your home state. Our health care system and our emergency responders are not equipped to deal with a sudden influx of seasonal residents. It is everyone's responsibility to stay in place right now—doing so is the fastest path towards overcoming the spread of this virus.
- For Stonington residents: if you have been out of state or travelling, or are having family or friends visit from away, we recommend you observe CDC guidelines and stay in place for two weeks following outside contact. It has come to our attention some residents coming back from recent trips out of state are not observing these important protocols, and are in local stores and out in public. This is the type of behavior we need to avoid in order to quickly flatten the curve and return to normalcy.
- Food and other necessary supplies can be obtained by curbside pickup and/or delivery. We strongly urge you to utilize these services to practice proper social distancing, especially if you need to observe a two-week quarantine, or are staying in place because of health concerns. Call businesses or providers to see where and when deliveries or pickup services are available. Our grocery stores have a steady and reliable supply chain delivering goods, and so hoarding is not necessary; doing so takes away resources from those truly in need.

We strongly urge and recommend everyone to practice social distancing, sanitizing, and handwashing. Maintain at least six feet of distance between yourself and others, and be aware of what you touch that others may have touched as well. While the Governor has the authority to restrict movements within our state, local officials do not. We can only make recommendations, but we implore you to take these recommendations seriously. We are a strong community, and will get through this in solidarity, by acting with patience and kindness towards each other. It is important to be respectful and caring of one another in these times. Causing discord serves no purpose other than to worsen the existing situation. Now is the time for us all to show up for anyone in need.

Yours,

Kathleen Billings, Town Manager

Donna Brewer, Chair of the Select Board