**Covid-19 and Islands**

***Islands of Maine, USA***

1. What actions are being taken to protect the island community from Covid 19? In particular, how are travel restrictions being put in place and enforced?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Kate TagaiSenior Community Development Officer, Island Institutektagai@islandinstitute.org | 23 March 2020 | More detailed answers can be found Maine Islands Coalition [here](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.islandinstitute.org%2Fmaine-islands-coalition&data=02%7C01%7Cpatricia.berlouis.2015%40uni.strath.ac.uk%7Cac5ba5e9370341bde4d408d7d052f7b9%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637206927068211735&sdata=yp6Drb5bjlYugPO6ag6CghggZvIvlMzjGGEHJXPvUU8%3D&reserved=0).* Islands are publishing statements asking their seasonal residents to carefully consider the limited health care resources on the island before they make the decision to return, and that if they do return to quarantine themselves for the recommended 14 day period.
* Some islands have asked that residents travel only for essential trips to the doctor or for groceries. Others have asked that contractors coming from off island pause in their work so that it is only island residents riding the ferry.
	+ Ferries with two cabins are using only one cabin for trips and alternating so that there is a chance for the crew to clean the cabins between trips.
	+ Other ferry services have limited the number of trips they take a day and/or limited the number of passengers allowed on the ferry so that passengers can physically distance themselves from one another.
	+ For ferries that carry cars, passengers are being asked to stay in their cars as much as possible.
* Ferry Crews are working on the same shifts rather than on overlapping shifts to avoid cross contaminating between crews.
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1. What actions will be taken should people on the island have Covid 19?

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| Respondent | Date | Response  |
| Kate TagaiSenior Community Development Officer, Island Institutektagai@islandinstitute.org | 23 March 2020 | * People who test positive for COVID-19 must self-quarantine at home until or unless they need urgent medical treatment, at which point they would be transported to the mainland as no island has a medical facility certified to handle emergency care.
* Those communities with medical centres have set up quarantine spaces so that if someone suspects they have Covid19 or is confirmed to have it, they can receive diagnostic treatment without contaminating the entire medical centre.
* Communities without a medical centre are usually reliant on volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians.  These services are currently collecting personal protective equipment, which is in short supply, in order to protect the first responders.
* Neighbouring islands in Casco Bay have worked together to create a plan for sharing the Emergency Medical Boat owned by one island, so that patients won't have to travel on the ferry.
* For other islands, they collaborating through the Maine Islands Coalition and the Island Institute to set up regular meetings with key services such as island stores and ferries in order to share accurate, critical information as it becomes available.  This includes protocols for what to do if a patient suspected of having Covid19 does have to be transported by ferry.
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1. What actions are being taken to ensure that essential goods and services are provided to the island community?

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| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Kate TagaiSenior Community Development Officer, Island Institutektagai@islandinstitute.org | 23 March 2020 | * The ferry/plane are continuing service delivery. They are taking steps to protect the crews, sanitize the space, and keep both passengers and crew safe and healthy.
* The islands and ferry services are also asking that unnecessary travel be reduced to only what is essential to limit possible community spread.
* The Island Institute and Maine Islands Coalition are convening island store owners so that they can share resources and information.
* Store owners are limiting how many patrons can enter the store at any one time, setting up hand sanitizer stations just inside the door and encouraging its use and/or only allowing employees in the store to fulfill curb side pick-up orders or for at-home delivery.
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1. What actions are being taken to ensure that people working on the islands, not only in the tourism sector, are sustained financially in the short term and in the long term?

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| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Kate TagaiSenior Community Development Officer, Island Institutektagai@islandinstitute.org | 23 March 2020 | * Those who can work from home are working from home.
* Those that have a small business that can provide pick-up or delivery of items are transitioning to offering that service.
* Small businesses are encouraging patrons to buy gift certificates and/or order online if they have the capability to keep the businesses running even at a limited capacity.
* The Island Institute runs the Glenn Fund, which provides loans to island based businesses and which has suspended the payment of any fees associated with outstanding loans for three months.
* As a state of emergency has been declared, the Small Business Administration is providing Federal Disaster Loans for businesses and organizations that work with small businesses such as Coastal Enterprises, INC and the Finance Authority of Maine are helping business owners access these funds.
* Many of the small island communities also have their own funds that are available to help individuals and/or organizations.
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1. What actions are being taken to ensure the mental well-being of people on the islands?

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| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Kate TagaiSenior Community Development Officer, Island Institutektagai@islandinstitute.org | 23 March 2020 | * Town committees have organized check-in calls to those who are the most at risk and are building communications plans to make sure that those who are immune-compromised, elderly, or otherwise unable to leave their houses at least have someone checking that they have what they need.
* One island group is writing and sending letters to community members, especially those who aren’t connected to the internet, to keep them connected to the community.
* Others are moving in-person gatherings online: craft nights, book groups, happy hour get-togethers.
* Already established community Facebook groups and list servs are doing a lot to help towns communicate important information and updates and for people to share needs and stay connected.
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1. If you consider it appropriate, feel free to share any data about people who have Covid 19 on your island and of people who, sadly, have passed away because of Covid 19.

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| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Kate TagaiSenior Community Development Officer, Island Institutektagai@islandinstitute.org | 23 March 2020 | As of 24 March:* 0 confirmed cases on the Maine islands
* 0 Fatalities
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1. If applicable, how are the lockdown measures being relaxed?

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| Respondent  | Date | Response |
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1. Is there anything else you want to share?

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| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Kate TagaiSenior Community Development Officer, Island Institutektagai@islandinstitute.org | 23 March 2020 | * Networked communication between community service organizations and between communities themselves is helping create resilient and responsive leadership in this time of crisis.
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1. Resources

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| Resource | Date | Link |
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*This information has been collated by the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance in collaboration with Island Innovation and can be found at* [*https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/strathclydecentreenvironmentallawgovernance/ourwork/research/labsincubators/eilean/islandsandcovid-19/*](https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/strathclydecentreenvironmentallawgovernance/ourwork/research/labsincubators/eilean/islandsandcovid-19/)*.*