**Covid-19 and Islands**

***Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, 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 |
| Virginia Jones  [info@vineyardsailing.com](mailto:info@vineyardsailing.com) | 6 May 2020 | * Governor of Massachusetts has now instituted shelter in place advisories and the SteamShip Authority has paused about 20% or so of the scheduled daily trips. * Numbers of ferries traveling back and forth have been cut, as have scheduled planes in and out. * Virtually all businesses are closed. * People from the mainland are being discouraged from coming here. * All work permits for anything other than essential construction have been paused. * Virtually all travel is banned * Businesses, shops, government buildings, etc. have been closed, cancelled, postponed or teleconferenced. * We were self isolating and on a pretty serious lockdown which is now relaxing somewhat. Unfortunately as a major tourist island I fear the coming summer. Our tourist industry and second home rental industry provides huge revenues and tax benefits to investors or second home owners and because it is a short season our economy needs to be diversified, green and sustainable. Protecting us from COVID-19 is hard. Many of us locally are vulnerable, older, fixed income, have health challenges and the island has a very high cost of living. |
| Christine Flynn  Martha's Vineyard Commission  flynn@mvcommission.org | 20 May 2020 | * Following State and Local Health Protocols |
| William Veno  Martha’s Vineyard Commission  [aicpbv@gmail.com](mailto:aicpbv@gmail.com) | 14 May 2020 | * People free to travel to and from Martha's Vineyard. Arrivals encouraged to self-quarantine for two weeks. Only on-island travel restrictions are to wear masks when social distancing can't be maintained and and no gathers of more than 10 people. Main restriction is on workplaces that can operate |

1. What actions will be taken should people on the island have Covid 19?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Virginia Jones  [info@vineyardsailing.com](mailto:info@vineyardsailing.com) | 6 May 2020 | * Call the hospital and/or you primary care physician (hopefully you have one -- most visitors and tourists do not have a local one) to ask for direction. |
| Christine Flynn  Martha's Vineyard Commission  flynn@mvcommission.org | 20 May 2020 | * Working with Local Boards of Health, Hospital, and town to do contact tracing |
| William Veno  Martha’s Vineyard Commission  [aicpbv@gmail.com](mailto:aicpbv@gmail.com) | 14 May 2020 | * Of 23 cases, 3 transported to mainland hospitals; all others recovering at home. Our hospital has 3 ventilators. |

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 |
| Virginia Jones  [info@vineyardsailing.com](mailto:info@vineyardsailing.com) | 6 May 2020 | * For now the food supply chain is still strong but the food supply chain is buckling. We have farmers who are producing a lot of greens, dairy, meat (though it was intended for the summer markets and the restaurants) such as beef, chicken, pork and lamb. Fishing will supply fish and shell fish. We don't have a lot of local fruit. We will be OK but we are islanders and we are resilient as well as having self sufficiency in our genes! |
| Christine Flynn  Martha's Vineyard Commission  flynn@mvcommission.org | 20 May 2020 | * Transportation and Delivery of goods and services are still functioning although at a reduced rate. |

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 |
| Virginia Jones  [info@vineyardsailing.com](mailto:info@vineyardsailing.com) | 6 May 2020 | * As many businesses which can furlough workers with a weekly stipend are doing so–- even if it is only a token amount. * Charitable donation from Martha’s Vineyard Bank. See [here](https://vineyardgazette.com/news/2020/04/03/vineyard-bank-will-contribute-625000-pandemic-relief-effort-island) for information * Some people were eligible for "Stimulus" checks from the feds but so far I haven't got any assistance and many haven't. There is no clear information about how to proceed to ascertain what or when we may receive assistance. |

1. What actions are being taken to ensure the mental well-being of people on the islands?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Virginia Jones  [info@vineyardsailing.com](mailto:info@vineyardsailing.com) | 6 May 2020 | * One can but wonder and actually I worry far more about those who live in cities! We have the beaches, the fields, the forests and lots of natural areas -- for which we are so blessed! |
| Christine Flynn  Martha's Vineyard Commission  flynn@mvcommission.org | 20 May 2020 | * Lots of Public Service Announcements and volunteers looking out for people |

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 |
| Virginia Jones  [info@vineyardsailing.com](mailto:info@vineyardsailing.com) | 6 May 2020 | As of 31 March:   * 8 confirmed cases, all recovering at home.   As of 6 May 2020   * We have 23 confirmed cases and one death supposedly not caused by COVID-19. We've had about 5000 second home owners come to shelter in place (and some tourists) and we don't know how many may be part of the 23 cases. This has produced a lot of friction. The other day we noticed how many construction workers were back pouring off the ferry daily (no masks or PPE) despite restrictions. The authorities have cracked down again but so far, we had a jump of 6 cases -- all but one are recovering at home. |
| Christine Flynn  Martha's Vineyard Commission  [flynn@mvcommission.org](mailto:flynn@mvcommission.org) | 20 May 2020 | * All of state and local information can be found at www.mass.gov/Covid19. All of the Health Data has been collected and published for the public. |

1. If applicable, how are the lockdown measures being relaxed?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Virginia Jones  [info@vineyardsailing.com](mailto:info@vineyardsailing.com) | 6 May 2020 | * Contractors and landscapers are back at work with strict measures to protect health and the Board of Health to inspect them and enforce compliance. This means that our health professionals are working hard. People -- as in any island communities -- are helping their neighbours. |
| Christine Flynn  Martha's Vineyard Commission  [flynn@mvcommission.org](mailto:flynn@mvcommission.org) | 20 May 2020 | * Massachusetts just released a 4 Phased approach to re-opening the Economy. Governor Baker has done a great job. |

1. Is there anything else you want to share?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Virginia Jones  [info@vineyardsailing.com](mailto:info@vineyardsailing.com) | 6 May 2020 | * Look [here](http://www.vineyardgazette.com) for a running commentary on line with news and essays, etc. * I loved that each and every participant noted the need to diversify the economy. I've been harping on this theme for all my life (and life in the community). It is particularly important here where the COL is 37 to 56% higher than on the mainland and we really only have about 3 months of economic gain except for the construction of high end second homes -- some of which can cost MANY millions of dollars. Affordable housing here is a chimera. |

1. Resources

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| Resource | Date | Link |
| “Under New Partnership, Comprehensive Testing for Coronavirus on Martha's Vineyard Set to Begin at End of May”  Vineyard Gazette | 14 May 2020 | Read [here](https://vineyardgazette.com/news/2020/05/14/new-initiative-will-launch-comprehensive-testing-coronavirus-marthas-vineyard) |
| “Vineyard to get up to 15,000 COVID tests”  MV Times | 15 May 2020 | Read [here](https://www.mvtimes.com/2020/05/14/vineyard-get-15000-covid-tests/) |

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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/)*.*