**Covid-19 and Islands**

***Prince Edward Island, Canada***

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 |
| Dr. Laurie Brinklow  Co-ordinator of the Institute of Island Studies  UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability  [brinklow@upei.ca](mailto:brinklow@upei.ca) | 24 March 2020 | * Started a week prior with people asked to self-isolate when returning from international travel. Has since been expanded to off-Island travel so anyone coming in at three entry points (the airport, the ferry to the Magdalen Islands, and the Confederation Bridge) are stopped and questioned - and given directives to self-isolate as soon as they get home. * Phone line set up to report anyone not following the directive. On 23rd March they announced fines for people who leave their homes when they should be self-isolating. * The province has set up phone numbers if help is needed in getting essentials when there is no one to bring individuals what they need. * Population is being asked to work from home, practice social distancing both inside and outside, and to refrain from visiting care homes and meeting up with friends. * Schools are closed indefinitely, and the University is offering its final weeks of classes via distance education. |
| Erin Taylor  Government of Prince Edward Island  [eotaylor@gov.pe.ca](mailto:eotaylor@gov.pe.ca) | 23 March 2020 | * Residents are encouraged to avoid all non-essential travel (domestic and international), and anyone who is returning to the Island from any destination must undergo self-isolation for 14 days. |
| Heidi Riley  [heidiriley1957@gmail.com](mailto:heidiriley1957@gmail.com) | 23 March 2020 | * People arriving to PEI from another province now must self-isolate for two weeks. * There is discussion about closing the bridge to non-essential travellers |
| PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada | 30 April 2020 | * "A Provincial State of Emergency was declared on April 17, 2020. It states that all non-essential travel into Prince Edward Island is prohibited. * Prince Edward Island has declared a state of emergency. If you are travelling to Prince Edward Island, you are asked to send an email or call ahead to determine if your travel is deemed essential, or not, as per the direction of the Chief Public Health Office to the PEI Emergency Measures Organization. This process complements current border controls and screenings in place in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. * All non-essential travel into Prince Edward Island is prohibited. * Prince Edward Island has declared a state of emergency. If you are travelling to Prince Edward Island, you are asked to send an email or call ahead to determine if your travel is deemed essential, or not, as per the direction of the Chief Public Health Office to the PEI Emergency Measures Organization. This process complements current border controls and screenings in place in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. * Non-essential travel within PEI is also discouraged/prohibited, but there is some allowance for mental health and physical well-being (ex. going for a walk in the park, as long as you maintain 2m distance from everyone who is not a member of your household)." |
| Erin Taylor  Government of Prince Edward Island  [eotaylor@gov.pe.ca](mailto:eotaylor@gov.pe.ca) | 13 May 2020 | Travel restrictions are a significant part of the response, and will likely be one of the last restrictions lifted. All non-essential travel is prohibited at this time. All non-residents are required to secure pre-approval for entry, and entry will only be allowed if the travel is deemed essential. Essential services are identified on our website, to guide decisions on who is performing essential work. PEI Residents must show proof of residency at border control points. Everyone who is not authorized to enter is turned away at border control points. Investigations are underway on two separate accounts of unauthorized border entry. Anyone entering the province is required to self-isolate for 14 days upon entry. |

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

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Dr. Laurie Brinklow  Co-ordinator of the Institute of Island Studies  UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability  [brinklow@upei.ca](mailto:brinklow@upei.ca) | 24 March 2020 | * If an individual displays any of the symptoms they are to call 811 and speak to someone about getting tested. So far there have been no issues about getting tested. There have been 3 confirmed cases out of 400+ tests, and all are recovering at home. * Hospitalization if severe symptoms. |
| PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada | 30 April 2020 | * A small number (26) have contracted the virus. Those who exhibit symptoms call 811 to be screened; those with suspected Covid are tested; those who test positive must quarantine for 14 day. I believe they are re-tested before ending their quarantine. Contact tracing is also done, and contacts must self-isolate for 14 days. |
| Erin Taylor  Government of Prince Edward Island  [eotaylor@gov.pe.ca](mailto:eotaylor@gov.pe.ca) | 13 May 2020 | People with COVID-19 are required to quarantine for at least 14 days. Contact tracing is conducted and all contacts are required to self-isolate for 14 days. |

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 |
| Dr. Laurie Brinklow  Co-ordinator of the Institute of Island Studies  UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability  [brinklow@upei.ca](mailto:brinklow@upei.ca) | 24 March 2020 | * Self-isolation for off-Island travellers does not include truckers who are bringing goods to the Island. * All grocery stores and pharmacies are still open. Major grocery stores are opening their doors an hour early to the elderly and anyone needing extra assistance in shopping. |
| Erin Taylor  Government of Prince Edward Island  [eotaylor@gov.pe.ca](mailto:eotaylor@gov.pe.ca) | 23 March 2020 | * Commercial traffic can continue to ensure good and services continue to flow. |
| Heidi Riley  [heidiriley1957@gmail.com](mailto:heidiriley1957@gmail.com) | 23 March 2020 | * The supply chain is being protected, and trucks are still coming through. * People are encouraged not to over buy or hoard goods, so that all have a chance to get what they need. |
| PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada | 30 April 2020 | * Truckers are "essential workers" as the bridge is our only link to many supplies, including most food (until the harvesting season with is not until Sept-Oct). We are a very vulnerable Island to food insecurity due to the combination of isolation, export economy, and northern climate. Many seed stores are now selling out, as people scramble to begin home-gardening. |
| Erin Taylor  Government of Prince Edward Island  [eotaylor@gov.pe.ca](mailto:eotaylor@gov.pe.ca) | 13 May 2020 | Essential workers (including commercial trucking) are permitted entry. There were requirements for self-isolation (but these were just recently lifted). |

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 |
| Dr. Laurie Brinklow  Co-ordinator of the Institute of Island Studies  UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability  [brinklow@upei.ca](mailto:brinklow@upei.ca) | 24 March 2020 | * The Provincial Government have put programmes in place over the past week offering financial assistance to businesses, those who were laid off (restaurant workers and others in the service industry), and self-employed workers. * 23 March–- the federal government announced changes to the Employment Insurance system, whereby seasonal workers who might not get to work in the tourism industry this summer will have access to financial assistance through EI. The federal government also announced assistance to businesses but currently unaware of how the federal government and provincial government will coordinate their efforts. |
| PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada | 30 April 2020 | * There was a short-term provincial subsidy (2-weeks) (our island is a province of Canada) and now a 16-week national subsidy available, plus some tourism support (loan relief, license fee relief, business loans, etc) |
| Erin Taylor  Government of Prince Edward Island  [eotaylor@gov.pe.ca](mailto:eotaylor@gov.pe.ca) | 13 May 2020 | There are a number of financial supports offered by Canada and Prince Edward Island governments. |

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

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Dr. Laurie Brinklow  Co-ordinator of the Institute of Island Studies  UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability  [brinklow@upei.ca](mailto:brinklow@upei.ca) | 24 March 2020 | * The media is doing a lot of “"good news”" stories about organizations that are springing up, such as Caremongering PEI on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=caremongering%20-%20pei%20%3Aresponse%20to%20covid-19&epa=SEARCH_BOX) * The population are taking to social media a lot for this kind of thing: using Zoom and Skype and Facetime to check on neighbours and relatives. Island musicians are offering online concerts. * The National Arts Centre in Ottawa is paying musicians to do online concerts, which Islanders are tuning in to. |
| Erin Taylor  Government of Prince Edward Island  [eotaylor@gov.pe.ca](mailto:eotaylor@gov.pe.ca) | 23 March 2020 | There are a range of efforts through social media to maintain social connectedness (church services, exercise classes, musical performances, activities for kids, etc.) |
| PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada | 30 April 2020 | Some mental health services are available virtually. There is a lot of information about how to cope. However, we are chronically short of mental health services at the best of times, so it is not a good situation in that regard. There has been an increase in domestic abuse reports, etc, and probably many more that cannot be reported due to the individual not being able to make a private call. Very worrying. |
| Erin Taylor  Government of Prince Edward Island  [eotaylor@gov.pe.ca](mailto:eotaylor@gov.pe.ca) | 13 May 2020 | Mental health support is being provided virtually. |

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 |
| Dr. Laurie Brinklow  Co-ordinator of the Institute of Island Studies  UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability  [brinklow@upei.ca](mailto:brinklow@upei.ca) | 24 March 2020 | As of 24 March   * 3 confirmed cases, all recovering at home * 0 deaths |
| PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada | 30 April 2020 | * "All of our 26 cases have been from international or interprovincial (off-island) travellers arriving or returning. We are fortunate in that there has been no ""community spread"" to date, and that we have only 2 ""ports of entry"" right now, the airport and the bridge. The ferry is due to open soon, but may be delayed, I think.   Our population is quite ""top-heavy"" (many retired and elderly) so if we do get community spread, it could be quite bad." |

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

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada | 30 April 2020 | The Chief Health Officer announced a 4-phase gradual relaxation of measures beginning tomorrow, May 1. Available [here](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/renew-pei-together) |
| Erin Taylor  Government of Prince Edward Island  [eotaylor@gov.pe.ca](mailto:eotaylor@gov.pe.ca) | 13 May 2020 | There is a 4-Phase plan - Renew PEI Together |

1. Is there anything else you want to share?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Dr. Laurie Brinklow  Co-ordinator of the Institute of Island Studies  UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability  [brinklow@upei.ca](mailto:brinklow@upei.ca) | 24 March 2020 | * As of 24 March the island is in a "Public Health Emergency" - not a "State of Emergency." * One negative thing is the island’s national broadcaster, CBC TV, has cut local television programming (their supper-hour news show "Compass") in favour of a centrally co-ordinated supper-hour show where their local coverage is 5-8 minutes, instead of the entire hour. People on Prince Edward Island are upset about that * The second negative was when the Chief Public Health Officer declared that liquor and cannabis stores are deemed essential services; that brought people out in droves as they had about 24 hours' warning - and went against social distancing practices. They've since instituted a delivery service, though it's still in its early stages. It showed that the definition of "essential services" was up for interpretation! |
| Heidi Riley  [heidiriley1957@gmail.com](mailto:heidiriley1957@gmail.com) | 23 March 2020 | Individuals are being told that medical staff need masks, so others should not buy or use them. |
| PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada | 30 April 2020 | I feel extremely fortunate to live on an island right now!!!! |

1. Resources

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| Island | Resource and 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/)*.*