



Town of Southwest Harbor
Select Board

February 24, 2020

To Our Residents, Seasonal Residents, and Visitors:

This is an unprecedented time for Southwest Harbor, the United States of America and indeed the World as a whole. The pandemic spread of COVID-19 across the globe has caused a dramatic shift in the daily lives of billions of people. We are a small town on a small island, but the impact of this disease could have huge consequences on our community. Our most important work is to protect the health and safety of our citizens, especially those most vulnerable to the massive effects of this disease. Our elderly and immunocompromised residents, our children facing food insecurities and our newly unemployed workers that rely on their next paycheck to make rent or pay the mortgage, are all staring at impossible choices. We are asking that everyone take a moment to recognize our individual responsibility to fight the spread of this disease.

To our seasonal residents and visitors from around the world, we appreciate all that you do for our community. Our small businesses, from restaurants and B&B's to local crafters and lobstermen, all rely on your contributions to this community. We hope that you also recognize this comes with a responsibility to this special place. The Board asks that all seasonal residents, currently living in their winter residence, continue to reside in their current location until the end of the State of Emergency declared by the governor, in accordance with the guidance of the CDC. We recognize that this is not possible for all seasonal residents and ask that you observe the following precautions if you must relocate to Southwest Harbor. Self-isolate in your residence for at least 14 days. If you show any signs of illness, even mild symptoms, contact your physician immediately and follow all medical advice. There are community resources on the Town's website to support you during this period.

To all our residents, please delay any unnecessary travel. Whether it is across the country or across town, all of our interactions increase the risk of spreading this disease. It is a difficult time for everyone and limiting social interactions can be especially challenging for some residents that don't have a lot of family nearby. If you are in need of anything and just aren't sure who to ask for help, contact the Town Office at 244-5404 and we will try to connect you with the appropriate resource. If you have to travel out of the area and return to our community, we ask that you also follow the 14-day self-isolation period.

To our community as a whole, please remember that your actions can have an enormous impact on others, whether devastating or constructive. If you are struggling, reach out and ask for help. If you have excess time, volunteer to help others or call a friend or neighbor that may feel isolated. Be mindful of your actions, practice social distancing according to the guidance of the Maine CDC, and most importantly, be kind.

Thoughtfully,

Southwest Harbor Select Board