

Beaver Island Public Statement regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Last Updated: April 15, 2020

“Stay Home, Stay Safe” and “Be Aware of What you Share”

As of April 15, 2020, the Beaver Island Rural Health Center is reporting that three patients have been tested for COVID-19 and are following strict medical protocol. All patient tests have come back negative. It is assumed that individuals who have sought testing will contact others with whom they have had recent contact.

While we are in no way ‘out of the woods’ on facing this pandemic, the numbers presented to date for Beaver Island are good. It means that our residents and others coming to the Island are taking the situation seriously and are following the Governor’s stay-home restrictions. It is our hope that Islanders will continue to follow the guidelines as are currently in place until May 1, 2020. We will soon learn more about what the next phase will bring as state officials begin to share plans to safely ease stay-home restrictions.

Regional data is also more positive, as the Health Department of Northwest Michigan shows that there is an overall decline in the number of new cases for the 4-county area since the peak around 10 days ago.

***You Asked: Do we have a ‘written plan’ for the Coronavirus Pandemic? The Answer:** There is not one single plan for community response; this is a multi-faceted challenge which requires plans from many different agencies, organizations, groups and individuals. The Rural Health Center and BIEMS are working cooperatively and are in constant contact with regional and state oversight agencies to ensure they are keeping up to date on trends and protocols. The CCE Office of Emergency Management (Homeland Security) is the Official regional emergency management agency with responsibility for Beaver Island and they are aware of Island needs. Local businesses have their own plans which are dictated by the Governor’s orders and by guidelines from the Health Department of NW Michigan. Individuals on the island have their own plans for how they are coping with the pandemic and the directives of the Governor. If the Beaver Island trend with covid-19 patients (or any other urgent event) points to an emergency that cannot be handled by existing resources, the Beaver Island Emergency Operations Plan would be called into play. The Beaver Island Emergency Operations Plan is a written plan, which is a subset of the County plan which is a subset of the State plan and provides a process for handling an identified emergency.*

The goal of the Township Supervisors is to make sure emergency organizations have what they need to carry out their individual missions during this crisis: BIEMS, BIRHC, BIFD, CCSD (Charlevoix County Sheriff Department). As such, we ask for regular input from their leaders through conference calls and we monitor the Regional EOC calls three times a week. We plan to release a Public Statement once a week, unless there is something urgent to report.

For updated information click on the "Coronavirus 19" Link on either township's homepage peainetwp.org or stjamestwp.org

You can sign up for email notifications of changes to the St. James Twp. website by going to the homepage and clicking the eNotify Tab. This will soon be available for the Peaine Twp. website too.

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