

Beaver Island Public Statement regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic
Last Updated: May 21, 2020

“Protect Yourself, Protect the Island”

This is the new Motto as we move into the next Phase of the Pandemic Response

As of May 21, 2020, the Beaver Island Rural Health Center is reporting that 38 patients have been tested for COVID-19: 33 have come back negative and 5 are pending, 0 have come back positive. If a result comes back positive, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan’s communicable disease team begins **contact tracing**.

You Asked: What about the Opening of Businesses on Beaver Island? The Answer: Executive Order 2020-92 (COVID-19) allows restaurants, bars and retail stores in northern Michigan to open on May 22, 2020 to customers at reduced capacity and with **high expectations for implementing safety measures**. As Island restaurants and business begin to reopen, it is extremely important that residents and visitors make every effort possible to follow the state and locally mandated guidelines posted by the local businesses. The practices and procedures they implement must be followed to protect their employees, customers and the island population at large. Please cooperate with the local businesses to make this reopening safe and enjoyable for everyone and to increase the likelihood that Beaver Island’s Covid-19 cases remains at 0.

Each business will have their specific expectations, but all will be expecting that YOU are following these guidelines:

- **Wear a Mask.**
- **Respect Social Distancing.**
- **Wash your Hands.**
- **Monitor your Health. Pay attention for COVID-19 symptoms: Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath. If you are concerned about your health, contact your health care provider. If you are ill, do not go out of your home.**

You Asked: Can I book a hotel or AirBnB? The Answer: In the short term, no, the governor’s executive order which expires on May 28, 2020 does not allow short-term rentals. If you own a second home, you can travel there, or, if you are an essential worker, you can travel. This restriction might be lifted on May 28, 2020, barring an extension of the order. Local hotels and summer rental homes are ready and waiting for the reopening. In the meantime, rental hosts are making plans to reopen and are encouraged to follow strict cleaning regimen and turnaround time for guests. We are expecting that visitors to the island will take advantage of the island’s isolation by enjoying the natural resources, hikes, family time, natural beauty, quality time in their rentals.

Other Important Information from the Beaver Island Fire Department: Open debris fires are not allowed at this time. To get a permit when open burning is allowed, contact Fire Chief Tim McDonough at 231.448.2733. Campfires must be in designated safe fire pits and monitored closely.

Other Important Information from the Rural Health Center: Antibody testing is not currently available at the health center pending further review by regional health officials about the overall accuracy of the test and the value to the community of the information it provides. If you have questions about testing, please contact the BI Rural Health Center.

Other Important Information from St James Township: The north shore township campground is closed for camping until June 21, 2020 in compliance with State of Michigan guidelines. The day park and picnic area remain open. Please follow social distancing guidelines. The municipal marina is closed to transient boat traffic until June 10, 2020.

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

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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.