

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

Last Updated: May 8, 2020

Stay Home, Stay Safe ... a Little Longer

As of May 7, 2020, the Beaver Island Rural Health Center is reporting that twenty patients have been tested for COVID-19: 19 have come back negative and 1 is 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**.

For the foreseeable future it is still extremely important for everyone to follow these guidelines:

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

You Asked: What type of testing is available at the Health Center? The Answer: *The role of testing has changed since the early stages of the pandemic when testing was only done if symptoms were apparent. The health center now has the ability to test all essential workers as encouraged by the governor. They can also test individuals with minimal symptoms and those with no symptoms who think they may have been exposed. The health center's increased testing capacity will provide more local information to better understand where COVID-19 is and how it is spreading in our region and state. This information can help give a better picture of when more restrictions can be lifted. Contact the health center for more information about testing.*

You Asked: Is the 14-day self-quarantine still a recommendation? The Answer: *We welcome our summer residents back to their homes as the state moves into the next phase of this crazy pandemic. We are asking those residents returning home to Beaver Island to use their very best common sense when reintegrating into the community – self-quarantine as much as possible, limit your interaction with others and make sure you are following the guidelines above. To protect our home caretakers, please make plans ahead of time to have work completed in your home before you arrive and make plans to have groceries and mail delivered if possible, for the first couple of weeks you are back. Folks who have been on this island during **the stay-at-home order which has been extended to May 28, 2020**, please remain vigilant about safety measures and social distancing as your group of contacts increases and your travel to and from the mainland increases. Just because the virus has not yet infected Beaver Island, does not mean it will not. We hope that all residents will take these precautions so that together we can help slow the spread of the virus and save lives and look forward to welcoming tourists to our shores when the time is right.*

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 twice 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

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