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ST JAMES TOWNSHIP
PEAINE TOWNSHIP

PRESS RELEASE

March 16, 2020

BEAVER ISLAND TOWNSHIPS CONSIDER COVID-19 RESPONSE

Peaine and St James Townships are monitoring the status of recent state and federal actions aimed at implementing preventative measures to stop the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 – COVID-19. The goals of the township supervisors are to monitor what is going on locally and beyond and to understand township roles and responsibilities as this unusual health emergency progresses. The primary objective is to make sure that island residents and visitors are following CDC guidelines to self-protect and to protect the safety of our community as a whole.

The township supervisors have cancelled all non-essential township board and committee meetings for the next week. Supervisor Kohls has scheduled a Beaver Island Emergency Services Authority meeting for Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 2:00pm at the Peaine Township Hall and its agenda will include discussion of community response to COVID-19 situation. The public will be able to attend via phone conferencing by calling 415.464.6800 (participant code 49782#). The meeting may be broadcast on [beaverisland.tv](http://www.beaverisland.tv). Residents can check the Beaver Island Emergency Services Authority website http://www.peainetwp.org/government_departments/emergency_services_authority/covid-19_information.php for updates and links to other valuable sites.

What are Island Organizations and Essential Services Doing?

- Beaver Island Rural Health Center has set up a special room and protocols to process individuals who think they may have the virus; they are following all protocols by CDC regarding emergency preparedness, establishing contacts with mainland hospitals in case patients need hospitalization. If patients are having symptoms, call first, don't just stop in; call for instructions. For more information contact: tammy@biruralhealth.org or 231.448.2275
- Beaver Island EMS is reviewing protocols for responding to calls which may include persons who have the virus and developing protocols for evacuation of infected patients if necessary. For more information contact: beaverislandems@gmail.com or (231)448-2578
- Airlines serving the Island are implementing strict disinfection methods for aircraft and are following CDC guidelines for protection of their passengers and staff and the island community. Both airlines are calling upon passengers to do the following: Do not travel if you have been or are currently ill, are showing any symptoms, or suspect you have been exposed to COVID-19. For more information contact: Fresh Air Aviation or Island Airways directly.

What can Islanders and Visitors Do?

1. Follow state and federal mandates related to halting the spread of the virus, particularly
2. Stay home as much as possible
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Take everyday preventive actions:
 - Clean your hands often
 - **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place.
 - If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
 - **To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places** – elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, handshaking with people, etc. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hand or finger if you must touch something.
 - Wash your hands after touching surfaces in public places.
 - **Avoid touching your face**, nose, eyes, etc.
 - **Clean and disinfect** your home to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks & cell phones)
 - **Avoid crowds**, especially in poorly ventilated spaces. Your risk of exposure to respiratory viruses like COVID-19 may increase in crowded, closed-in settings with little air circulation if there are people in the crowd who are sick.
 - **Avoid all non-essential travel** including plane trips, and especially avoid embarking on [cruise ships](#).
4. If you are coming to the island or returning from the mainland, please make every effort to protect others by implementing suggested guidelines. Consider a self-imposed quarantine if you are travelling to the island if you have potentially been exposed or are traveling from an area with known cases. [self-isolation tips from CDC https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html)

These websites provide state and federal guidelines for dealing with the current health emergency.

Local – Beaver Island Emergency Services Authority

http://www.peainetwp.org/government_departments/emergency_services_authority/covid-19_information.php

Regional – Health Department of Northwest Michigan <http://www.nwhealth.org/>

State - Michigan Department of Health & Human Services <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/>

National – Centers for Disease Control & Prevention https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Findex.html