



Chebeague Transportation Company

COVID-19 EMERGENCY TRANSPORT

Effective immediately, emergency rescue transportation for those suspected of having the COVID-19 virus will be provided by the CTC ferry, under the supervision of Chebeague's Fire and Rescue squad. All rescue requests should be made by calling 911.

Strict protocols for transportation amid this emergency will be in effect. These procedures are designed to protect rescue personnel as well as the CTC crew and the community at large.

During a COVID-19 rescue, no passengers or freight will be permitted on the ferry. Only Chebeague Fire and Rescue personnel will accompany the patient on the ferry to Cousins Island. Vehicle and pedestrians on the Stone Wharf and Cousins Island Wharf will be asked to move off of the wharf to allow safe transfer of the patient to and from the ambulance. Extensive decontamination of the ferry and surrounding area of wharves and ramps will be performed by Fire and Rescue personnel before the vessel is returned to service.

A requirement of this policy is that all passengers must sign a COVID-19 General Passenger Boarding Agreement before using our ferry service. More information regarding this Agreement will be distributed soon.

As many in the community are aware, formulation and approval of this joint transportation policy between the town and CTC necessitated the agreement of CTC's insurers. Absent their approval, CTC faced the possible loss of insurance coverage, forcing the company to halt all transportation service to the island, including emergency rescues. Lengthy negotiations with our insurers, as well as involvement with state government officials, approved today (April 13). We are grateful for the community's patience while this resolution was being developed.

Following updated guidance from health authorities, additional safety precautions will be imposed for routine travel on CTC. Effective Tuesday (April 14), cloth face masks will be required while onboard the *Independence*. No more than 20 passengers at a time will be transported to ensure social distancing. (The bow and stern are open for passengers.) Within a few days, special COVID-19 tickets will be sold; only those special tickets will be honored until the emergency is lifted. A complete list of safety procedures can be found on the CTC website <http://www.chebeaguetrans.com/About-Us.html>

With these new safety procedures in place to protect the health and safety of everyone amid this epidemic, CTC is pleased to be able to assist the Chebeague Island Fire and Rescue Department in serving the community. Stay healthy.