



Chebeague Transportation Company

COVID-19 Update

May 9, 2020

On Friday (May 8), a Chebeague resident was transported from the island by emergency personnel responding to a 911 call concerning a potential COVID-19 case. At the time of the 911 call, the *Independence* was in Portland and was not available. CTC always notifies Chebeague rescue and county emergency dispatchers of any temporary unavailability for transport, and Long Island's rescue was summoned, following a mutual aid agreement. Transportation of the patient was handled by Long Island's emergency crew.

Although CTC was not involved in this first COVID rescue, it serves as a reminder of the importance of strict guidelines for travel to ensure the safety of the public, the CTC crew and the patient.

As an added precaution after the rescue, CTC consulted with an epidemiologist and the Maine CDC to again review our safety policies. Those policies include use of personal protective equipment, social distancing, rigorous disinfecting between trips, and limiting the number of passengers. (See our website for the full list.) These protocols were deemed to be in line with best practices.

Along with the Chebeague rescue department, the CTC crew is on the front line in our fight against this virus. The numerous changes CTC has made to our operating procedures are designed to protect everyone. We ask for your understanding and support. These are uncertain times for all of us, and sadly, our crew is the first to hear complaints, adding to their own stress levels. *What we do, we do to protect us all.*

As we learn more about this disease, and new information becomes available, rules and requirements have changed. For example, we were able to convince our insurers to suspend their initial demand for signed waivers from passengers. The adequacy of our stringent rules for travel, and care exhibited by our crew, helped to convince the company to rescind this requirement.

A reminder to the community: CTC stands ready to transport persons going to the mainland for COVID-19 testing or a related doctor's appointment free of charge in their vehicle via the barge.

Be well and, as always, contact the CTC office (846-5227) or General Manager Carol Sabasteanski (207-319-3061) if you have questions, concerns or suggestions.