

COVID-19

UPDATE TO THE CHEBEAGUE COMMUNITY

From the Chebeague COVID Testing Team and Community Action Response Team (C.A.R.T.)

APRIL 20, 2022

- Booster Clinic on Chebeague, **Monday, May 2nd** at the Rec Center
- TEST AND TREAT services at local Walgreens
- FREE home COVID tests available
- Pool Testing at the schools ending in May

Following is an update on 4 key developments to help you stay safe and keep on fighting smart against COVID-19.

The pandemic state of emergency will likely be coming to an end soon. On Chebeague, we have held strong together, achieved a 99% vaccination rate and minimized cases. In the wider USA, there are still communities across the country that are experiencing an uptick in cases. Here in Maine, we are experiencing a decrease in COVID-19 hospitalizations and outbreaks. While there are still hundreds of deaths in the US from Covid occurring on a daily basis across the country, most of the cases of COVID-19 infections today are not as life threatening or serious illness as they once were, especially in breakthrough cases in those who are vaccinated and have healthy immune systems.

Here are four recent developments for the Chebeague Community to be aware of:

BOOSTER CLINIC ON MAY 2nd - The Cumberland Center for Disease Control (CDC) nurses will return to Chebeague on Monday May 2nd at the Rec center from 9-11am. Look for a [Survey Monkey](#) posted at chebeague.org and the Town's townofchebeague.org to register for your booster appointment. **Please register by noon on Friday, April 29th.**

TEST & TREAT - For those who develop COVID-19 symptoms and have underlying health problems such as a weakened immune system, the CDC has developed a **test and treat program**. To participate, if you are concerned you are ill with COVID-19 symptoms or think you have been exposed, you may contact your [pharmacy](#) and go for a test. If your test is positive for COVID-19, the pharmacist can provide an Rx from your primary care provider and offer you an oral treatment, called Paxlovid, to speed your recovery.

FREE AT-HOME TESTS - In addition to distribution of at-home COVID-19 antigen test kits to Maine schools, DHHS encourages school staff and families to request free tests through the [Federal Free COVID Tests Program](#) and [Project Access COVID tests \(ACT\)](#). Through the successful Project ACT pilot, DHHS has made free tests available directly to Maine people by mail order. As of April 12, Maine households have ordered 266,140 tests through Project ACT. For more information, visit [Maine's COVID-19 Testing](#) website. If you need a test on island, text or call Nancy Hill, RN (207) 712-3184, or Jenny Hackel, NP at (734) 660-3461, to work out an on-island test while supplies last. As of this posting date, both rapid tests and PCR tests are available. Be in touch with your PCP if you have symptoms and/or test positive for COVID-19 and follow CDC guidelines to limit transmission.

YARMOUTH SCHOOLS POOL TESTING SUCCESS - The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has announced the ending of pooled testing in the schools. The final week for schools to conduct pooled testing will be May 9-13, with the last set of results reported to schools by May 15. Schools are being encouraged to order at home tests that can be distributed to students and staff. For more information, see the DHHS [news release](#).