

April 30, 2020

**LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER NOTICE to RANGELEY and DALLAS PLANTATION RESIDENTS** Good Morning, As we all adjust to living in the Covid 19 pandemic, I would like to update our community on the recent State of Maine rules and regulations to maintain public health and reopen the economy. On April 28, Governor Mills announced continuation of the Public Health Emergency Proclamation “Stay Safer at Home” until May 31, 2020. This order continues the prohibition of gatherings more than 10 people as well as the continued quarantine of all people entering Maine for a period of 14 days. Businesses that have been allowed to operate under previous orders will continue to be open. At-risk people should stay home when possible. Cloth face coverings will be required in public spaces where 6foot physical distancing is not possible. Examples include grocery stores, pharmacies, retail stores, and public transportation.

In addition, the Governor outlined a 4-stage gradual re-opening of the economy which prioritizes public health and the safety of business employees. In this notice, I will only summarize the rules regarding business openings permitted per checklist starting May 1, 2020. The new business openings include: Health care provided by Maine licensed providers, drive-in theaters, golf courses, disc golf courses, guided boating (less than 5 people), marinas, state owned public lands trails, 30 state parks and historic sites (costal sites will remain closed), barber shops, hair salons, dog grooming, drive-in stay in your vehicle church services, auto dealerships, and car washes. The Department of Economic and Community Development, on its website [www.maine.gov/decd/home](http://www.maine.gov/decd/home), has the business specific checklists for safe re-opening. If business owners have questions, they can get guidance from this same website.

I would urge residents who have postponed routine health check-ups, delayed evaluation of new symptoms, or cancelled screening procedures (mammograms, colonoscopy), to contact their health care provider about the safety provisions in place so necessary care can resume.

The Governor and the Commissioner of DECD have indicated there may be some flexibility for other businesses, not permitted in the Stage 1 guidelines, to reopen if they can demonstrate adequate measures to protect public health and safety of their employees upon application, review and approval by the department. They indicated this opportunity may be available in areas of the state where there is no evidence of community transmission. Again, the DECD website is a resource for additional information.

Stay safe everyone, Sheridan Oldham, MD Local Health Officer Rangeley and Dallas Plt.