

SICO President's Letter  
Stephen Baumgartner  
May 12, 2020

Greetings to all MacMahan'ers!

I am writing to provide you with a reminder and update about the SICO Board's thoughts as we approach the Summer season on MacMahan. **At this time it is our intent that the island will be open.** Chris and his team are already well along with opening cottages, launching boats, and initiating projects.

**However, we should all be realistic and recognize that precautions about COVID-19 will still be needed, most likely even into the Fall. Nothing has changed about the twin facts that we have no healthcare facilities on the island and that the local hospitals do not have a lot of capacity to handle serious cases. Anyone who gets COVID-19 on MacMahan will be at grave risk. We continue to be especially vulnerable because a significant portion of our community is over 60.**

**Any restrictions imposed by the State of Maine take priority over our own guidelines and apply equally whether we are on or off the island. Of great importance to people coming to MacMahan from out of state, the rules currently include a mandatory 14-day self quarantine for anyone entering Maine, with restrictions on what you can do during that period – potentially including going to the grocery store.**

Because the rules are evolving and could change at any time, we advise everyone to recheck them immediately before starting a trip, particularly regarding the need to bring sufficient food and other supplies to last through the quarantine. Do not rely on articles published in newspapers or unofficial web pages, as they can quickly become out of date. What you read today could be wrong tomorrow. Also be aware that like many places, Maine plans to reopen in stages. If you come in July or August, the rules will be different than today and may even be different than what you read in today's plans for July and August.

**For the best information, consult the official sites such as:**

- <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/>
- <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus.shtml>
- <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/documents/Public-COVID19-FAQ-8May2020.pdf>

**and carefully check for the latest updates to any document.**

Sagadahoc County currently has a relatively low number of cases, but that may change as more people arrive from other areas, potentially bringing the virus with them, and as businesses reopen. It is up to all of us to do what we can to keep the virus off MacMahan.

Obeying the quarantine and social distancing guidance will be especially challenging for children, who are both naturally social and may have difficulty understanding the reason for the restrictions. We ask your help in protecting the safety of everyone's children.

SICO itself is taking the following measures:

- During the quarantine, we request that you wear a face mask while out of your house where you may contact other people.
- Until further notice, the Yacht Club and Playhouse remain closed.
- If possible, use your own boat for transport on and off the island so as to minimize contact with people other than your immediate household. However, there is limited space at the landing for tie-up, so do not leave a boat there overnight – including dinghies and inflatables. Chris's staff can tow your boat back to the island for you and bring it back to the landing when you return.
- The ferry will run at the usual times. Chris may limit the number of passengers per trip to allow safe distance. If this necessitates making additional trips he will do so. If you plan to use the ferry, please let him know in advance so he can better manage his schedule. While waiting on the dock, please observe separation so that you don't risk giving or receiving the virus from people outside your household.
- The post office and the store are particularly congested spaces that require extra precautions. We ask that you use hand sanitizer before entering and that you limit the number of people in the post office lobby to one at a time. We are still debating whether or not to open the store, as it poses even greater risk because people touch the products and because it is a magnet for children who may have difficulty understanding and following safe practices. We know that the store is a major attraction and we will announce a decision shortly before July.