

PASSENGER LILLY B/ISLAND TRUCK COVID-19 DETAILED PROTOCOLS

Revised June 15, 2020

Introduction:

The Summer of 2020 will be different from any summer we have experienced in recent memory. The Boat Advisory Committee (BAC) and the Bustins Island Village Corporation (BIVC) Board of Overseers have worked to develop protocols to operate the ferry in the safest manner possible for crew and passengers. These protocols are based on strict guidelines set forth by the Maine Center for Disease and Control and Prevention (MECDCP) and the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (MEDECD). We are hoping that less strict guidelines will be released soon, but until then our protocols must be based on current information. Every islander must understand and follow these protocols when coming to Bustins Island. After reviewing these protocols every islander should make an informed decision as to whether coming to Bustins Island this season is in their and the community's best interest. Please share this information with other islanders.

Some of the protocols include: reduced number of passengers per trip; paid reservations for the Lilly B and island truck in advance of a trip with a limited number of reservations per boat trip; passengers are responsible for loading and unloading their belongings without assistance from any employees or other passengers; masks/coverings and social distancing required for passengers on the Lilly B, docks, and all access points; as well as quarantine protocols for out of state passengers. Islanders traveling from out of state must not use the ferry for any purpose until they have completed a mandatory 14-day quarantine. An islander under quarantine must **not** use the ferry to travel to Bustins Island, even if the islander intends to complete the quarantine on the island. According to BIVC legal counsel "a person who is subject to the mandatory 14-day quarantine must not use public transportation for any purpose, essential or otherwise" (Maine CDC Guidelines. Page 22). After completing the quarantine, islanders may use the ferry.

Exceptions are residents of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont and residents of other states who have taken a Covid-19 test within the past 72 hours, with negative results.

Passengers should only use the ferry for essential reasons. See (Maine CDC Guidelines. Page 5) for more detail. Based on guidance from legal counsel, "being able to reach one's home, seasonal or otherwise, is certainly an essential activity."

Maine CDC guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/documents/Public-COVID19-FAQ-19April2020.pdf>

Please understand these protocols are in place to protect Lilly B crew and passengers. Please be mindful of the extraordinary circumstances we are dealing with and the reasons behind these restrictive protocols. If a potential illness arises it will impact the ability to staff the ferry and island truck and may suspend their operations. The BAC and BIVC Overseers will update these protocols based on updated guidelines from the MECDCP/MEDECD.

Passenger Protocols:

All passengers must self-certify their health by monitoring for signs and symptoms of Covid-19. Passengers exhibiting these symptoms should not board the Lilly B: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or at least two of these symptoms: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or a new loss of taste or smell.

If you ride the Lilly B, it is mandatory that you provide and wear your own mask or face covering. You must also wear your mask or face covering at the Bustins Island and South Freeport dock areas, Brewer/Strouts marinas, and any public area in Freeport.

You should plan to arrive at least 45 minutes prior to the Lilly B departure time. Parking will be much more difficult at both Brewers and Strouts Boatyards. There are parking restrictions in place, and it is recommended Islanders consult with Brewers and Strouts prior to parking at the marinas. Parking will still be available at the French school and at the Town Wharf when visiting for the day.

While waiting to board it is mandatory that you stay clear of disembarking passengers, wait for the crew to disinfect the boat, and wait for the crew to invite passengers to begin loading the boat.

It is your responsibility to load and unload all your belongings. Please bring essential items (e.g. food, bedding, clothing, small household items) only. Freight will not be transported this season. Freight includes items such as lumber, lawn mowers, and bicycles. For a detailed list of freight see the freight list at <http://bivc.net>. Organize your belongings so that they are easy for you to load and unload. For example, use boxes so that you have to make fewer trips to and from the ferry. Cluster your belongings together both on the boat and on the dock to reduce the risk of contact with others' belongings.

Loading and unloading will be done systematically to maintain social distancing. Passengers will load and unload belongings one family unit at a time. After loading belongings, return to the dock to await boarding. Once all bags for all passengers are loaded, approximately 5 minutes before departure, the crew will invite passengers to board and to sit in specific seats. Family members may sit close to one another, but other passengers must practice social

distancing. Unloading will be done similarly, with passengers exiting the ferry immediately upon arrival, and then unloading belongings one family unit at a time at the direction of the crew.

Passengers who reserved the island truck will place their belongings at the top of the Bustins Island public runway. The island truck driver will load the truck, deliver and unload belongings to appropriate cottages per the reservations. Belongings will be left roadside or on porches. The truck driver will not enter cottages or provide transport for passengers. Pickup of belongings for passengers leaving Bustins Island will be handled similarly.

Passengers must be punctual. The boat will depart on time. No exceptions.

Schedules and Reservations:

Presently MECDCP/MEDECD guidelines do allow gatherings greater than ten people but changes to increase the number of passengers will be assessed for safety of the crew and the ability to maintain social distancing for all on the ferry. Thus, as of now, only eight passengers and two crew will be scheduled per trip. No exceptions. The BAC will continue to work on specifics regarding schedules, reservations, and trip duration given the new loading/unloading/cleaning protocols.

We are hoping to begin operation on the 19th of June and offer trips through June 22nd, and resume on June 26th and run through June 29th, with trips planned every two hours with departure times from South Freeport at 8, 10, 12, 2, and 4 and departure times from Bustins Island at 9, 11, 1, 3, and 5. We are hoping to begin a full season schedule on July 1st subject to updates from MECDCP/MEDECD. At this time, there will be no special trips.

To reduce contact between passengers and island employees and to manage the limited number of passengers, a prepaid reservation is required to ride the Lilly B and use the island truck. No exceptions. You will not be able to show up at the dock at Bustins Island or at South Freeport and expect to ride the ferry without a prepaid reservation. This will require careful planning for trips to/from the island. Prepaid reservations will be taken on a first come first serve basis. With a restricted number of passengers per trip and a prepaid reservation required, careful consideration must be given as to whether going to Bustins is appropriate given personal schedules.

Reservations can be made by visiting <http://bivc.net> and clicking on the "Make reservation" button. You will be guided to choose your reservation, the date of your trip, number of passengers and pets, and will be given the option to reserve and pay for the island truck. You will enter your credit card information and will receive a confirmation email once you complete the reservation. One-way fares are \$14 per passenger (adult or child). There is no round-trip fare.

Reservations may be cancelled no later than 24 hours prior to scheduled departure. Cancellations within the 24-hour window and no-shows will not be refunded. Reservations can be made up to one hour before departure if a seat is available. Reservations can be made up to 15 days in advance to allow adjustments to the ferry schedule as needed. As the ferry is running at a very limited capacity, passengers should limit reservations to essential runs only. A waiting list is available for runs that are full with an email notification sent if a seat becomes available. Click on the "Make Reservation" button to view the latest ferry schedule. Reservations will be opened by June 12.

2019 boat tickets will be honored in the future, likely in 2021.

Mail and Packages:

Bustins Island 2020 mail service is suspended for the season. The Lilly B will not transport mail or packages delivered to the dock. Because passengers must load and unload their own belongings, islanders cannot have groceries, take-out food, or other items delivered to the ferry at South Freeport for transportation to the island.

The BAC and Overseers are using guidance from MECDCP/MEDECD. We recognize that these protocols are a hardship, but we ask that you please understand why these drastic measures are being implemented. When the guidelines are relaxed, we will update our protocols.

Stay safe and stay healthy,

Bustins Island Board of Overseers and the Bustins Island Boat Advisory Committee