

March 20, 2020,

Dear Peacham Resident,

Greetings! We hope this finds you well. In response to the global coronavirus pandemic, Peacham has activated the town's volunteer Emergency Management Team to help prepare and, soon, recover from COVID-19. As newly-formed members of that team, we're reaching out with information on what is happening locally to support you. The team functions under Vermont's Emergency Management System, so we have ridiculous-sounding titles. **We're really just your friends and neighbors, working alongside your other friends and neighbors.** With your help we're working on the following main objectives for all Peachamites:

- Help communicate COVID-19 facts (see enclosed sheet)
- Facilitate deliveries of prescriptions, food, and supplies
- Support grassroots response efforts
- Coordinate longer-range planning and response initiatives
- Offer moral support during this difficult chapter in history

To Get Information: All critical information is being posted in real time to the COVID-19 section of the Town of Peacham website, peacham.org. **We respect the fact that some of our residents do not or choose not to connect to the internet.** We are mailing this important information to all our residents and will continue to strive to mail up-to-date communications. Should we have urgent information to pass along, we want to prioritize phone calls to those without internet access. **Please call Mel Reis (802) 592-3079 or Andrea Kane (802) 592-3061 to confirm whether or not you have internet access so we can put you on the priority call list if not.**

To Help or To Get Help: In a medical emergency or fire, always call 911. **If you or anyone you know requires any other assistance, please reach out to Mel (802) 592-3079 or Andrea (802) 592-3061.** For information on state services dial 211, a hotline staffed through the United Way.

To Stay Safe: All Peacham residents are STRONGLY encouraged to **Shelter in Place*** aka stay at home in order to mitigate the spread of this ever-mutating virus - particularly those over age 60 or with underlying health concerns. We know it is extremely difficult to do, but the next few weeks are a critical phase in slowing the spread and mitigating the severe risks to our community. As always, Peacham has a great crew of Volunteers who are ready to help with any need you have, and we are coordinating through technology to reduce exposure and contamination to us all. We urge you to reach out for assistance, so you do not put yourselves at risk. Because this virus is transmitted from surfaces but also through the air, please observe **Social Distancing** practices by maintaining a six-foot ("fist bump") distance from others. To limit the spread of this disease, our delivery volunteers are carefully following best practices of sanitation, glove use and social distancing, and will only do pick ups and drop offs just outside your home in assigned bins.

What to Do: Needs will change over the next several weeks, but THE most helpful thing right now is for all of us to regularly call and/or email our neighbors to check in. That social connection goes a long way to helping individuals emotionally and therefore also physically. As we work to ensure all our residents have what they need, it is super helpful if you let us know which residents you communicated with and when.

Email covid@peacham.org if you are able – or if you have no internet, please call **Mel (802) 592-3079 or Andrea (802) 592-3061.**

Who We Are: The following are the Phase One members of this Emergency Management Team. **Neil Monteith** is coordinating the overall effort as Incident Commander, with leadership from Peacham Town Selectboard members **Mike Heath, Beatrice Ring, and Peter Craig** and Town

Clerk **Tom Galinat**, and **Rebecca Washington**, as Chief and Deputy of Finance/Administration. **Erin Lane** is Deputy Incident Commander and Planning Chief. **Jeff Berwick** is Fire/EMS Branch Director. **Andrea Kane** is Operations Chief, working closely with **Mel Reis** as Logistics Chief, and **Alfred Dedam**, as Delivery Unit Leader. Why the titles? That's just how the emergency management system works for getting funding, requesting mutual aid, organizing, etc., since individual members may change while mandates for consistency and efficiency do not.

Again, if you are in need of anything please do not hesitate to call us. We are here to help you and we would love to hear from you! Thank you.

Be Well, Don't Touch Your Face, and Wash Your Hands! We got this!

Sincerely,

The Members of Peacham's Emergency Management Team for COVID-19

*Terms: **Shelter-in-Place** means to lay low until an active threat has passed. **Quarantine** is used for those who *may have been exposed* to the virus. **Self-Isolation** is used for those who have or suspect they may have the virus. **COVID-19** stands for Corona Virus Disease, first detected in 2019.

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

**FACT
1**

Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

**FACT
2**

For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

**FACT
3**

Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

**FACT
4**

There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

**FACT
5**

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

