

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**These are some of the frequently asked questions that have been asked since the Village of Bald Head Island declared a State of Emergency and issued a Voluntary Evacuation in response to COVID-19 and the CDC's recommendations. These will be added, to, revised, etc. as-needed.**

### **Why are contractors still being allowed on the island?**

As of today (3/20/20) there is no guidance from the CDC prohibiting workers from commuting to work using mass transit. The Village has distributed COVID-19 guidance to the contractors on the island and developed flyers for the ferry landing to educate all Island employees to stay home if they are sick.

These folks are getting homes ready for the summer, they are cleaning houses, working at the restaurants and the market, and ensuring that everything is in working order on the island like they have been for the months and weeks leading up to the COVID-19 outbreak. They are local. It is in their employer's best interest to keep them healthy and working. They will be able to continue to work as long as they are healthy and as long as there is no guidance from the CDC prohibiting them from working. This can change at any time.

\*\*Spectrum & Duke Energy workers have no restricted access. Both companies have been notified directly.

### **Can my adult child(ren), friends, boyfriend/girlfriend, come to join me as I isolate on BHI?**

Access to the island is restricted to property owners and residents, business owners and their respective employees and contractors, municipal employees and contractors at this time. If you choose to come to BHI and you are a property owner you can get on the island. **CDC guidance is to avoid unnecessary travel.** It is disappointing that many of our loved ones finally have some down time and that they cannot spend that time with us. Many families are getting past that by using technology to communicate with each other from their homes, no matter how far away. Traveling to the island when it is not necessary increases the risks to the people that are already here. The Village is trying to minimize the risks. If someone starts having COVID-19 symptoms on the island, the Village will have to use its Public Safety resources to transport the patient off island for medical care. The ferry is not an option. This would also require the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which is not in infinite supply. This will put our Public Safety personnel at risk for infection, and their coworkers at risk for infection. The Village wants to maintain its supply of equipment and needs its emergency responders. They are essential to the public health and safety of our island residents.

The Village asked second home property owners to consider the following in its [communication on 3/18](#):

- The risk you are taking by exposing yourself and your family while traveling to the island, especially on the ferry which is running at limited capacity because of COVID-19.

- The location of your primary care doctor if you or your family should become ill while on the island.
- The difficulty involved in transporting those who are sick off the island to receive medical care.
- The limited emergency medical resources on the island and the impact additional people have on these resources.
- What could happen if the supply chain is interrupted limiting supplies to the island.
- Businesses and services shutting down. Several island businesses have temporarily closed because of COVID-19, such as the cart repair shop (revised: there is one open) and Riverside Adventure Company.
- Not all island restaurants are providing take out or delivery. NC has also prohibited outdoor dining.

Please stay where you are for the duration of this event, the quicker everyone stays put, the quicker everyone will be able to come enjoy our beautiful island! [HERE](#) is some excellent information about how viruses spread.

#### **Do property owners need a pass or proof of residency to use the ferry?**

Not at this time, but we highly recommend you reconsider changing your present location based on all of the information the Village has provided on the CDC recommendations and present and future risks to yourself and the folks who are already on the island. If anything changes with this, the Village will let you know using the [Village's Voice](#).

#### **I was told that my employee can no longer come to the island, why?**

Employees whose employers are on the island are still permitted on the island. At this time the Village is working on a procedure to better identify these people and the procedure will be put in place if it is necessary to control the spread of the virus. As an employer, please consider the risks associated with bringing your employee over to the island if they are not an essential employee. We are hearing of child care workers coming from non-local areas, this is not advisable.

#### **COVID-19 is not a death sentence for most people, why is the Village going to such lengths?**

The Village is following CDC guidelines and the Village wants to minimize the risk to the population of people who are already on the island. Many of our permanent residents are in the high risk category. Regardless of health status, anyone can carry this virus to others.