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Open Letter to Residents from EMA Director Rice

Dear Residents:

I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for the many sacrifices you are all making to “stay healthy at home.” It’s a challenging time and the Town is very aware of the many frustrations and uncertainty all our residents are facing. However, I urge you to stay the course. While we see hopeful signs across the country and hear calls to open the economy, we must remain vigilant. Cases continue to rise in Maine, and now is not the time to give up our efforts at social distancing. Falmouth-EMS is regularly responding to COVID-19 calls throughout our community. We are not merely visiting our assisted living facilities. We are visiting neighborhoods all over town. We are treating your neighbors.

In addition to everyday steps to prevent COVID-19 (such as handwashing and isolating yourself when ill), keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools we have to avoid being exposed to the coronavirus and slowing its spread. The US CDC recommends that you limit close contact with individuals outside your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces. As the weather improves, residents will be tempted to gather with friends and neighbors, especially for outdoor activities. Recent studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms likely play a significant role in the spread of COVID-19. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away from others when possible, even if you or they have no symptoms.

COVID-19 spreads when people are in close contact (within 6 feet) of each other. Spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. The droplets can also be inhaled into the lungs. Walking with a neighbor or chatting with friends in the driveway while not maintaining 6 feet of distance can spread the virus—even if no one seems sick.

Falmouth Emergency Management and our first responders are here to protect you, but we cannot do it alone. We urge you to continue to practice safe social distancing in your daily lives. Everyone has a role to play in slowing the spread and protecting themselves, their family, and their community.

Sincerely,

Howard Rice, Jr., Fire Chief / EMA Director

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