

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sagadahoc County Implements Community Check-In Program

3/30/20

Bath, Maine

The Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency (SCEMA) has created a new program aimed to check in on the well-being of isolated citizens during the COVID-19 crisis. On Friday, SCEMA unveiled the new program, called the *Sagadahoc County Community Check-In Program* with flyers posted to their Facebook page.

The goal of the program is to provide compassionate support to some of the most vulnerable populations in Sagadahoc County. Eligibility is based on the following criteria: Participants must be 65 years of age or older, have a compromised immune system, have a chronic illness or must otherwise be unable to meet their own basic needs due to disability or a lack of transportation. These criteria model the Centers for Disease Control's vulnerability criteria in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and are similar to other County programs such as the Good Morning Program.

Members of the Sagadahoc County staff will make daily phone calls between 8:00 am and 11:00 am to each of the participants who register. The calls are not scripted so it could be as simple as a check in to have the caller say "Hello, I am doing well today" or "I don't have enough to eat today because I can't get to the store". Where a need can be facilitated, County staff refer the individual to area community agencies, such as for free meal deliveries to the door from a local food pantry, or if needed, to 2-1-1 Maine or the Crisis Hotline. The program is confidential and all information will be protected. If a caller does not answer the daily check-in call, local law enforcement will be dispatched to conduct a well person check.

According to SCEMA, this is one way to fill a gap for those individuals who might not be receiving support through this time of public health crisis. Just knowing someone is there and having a friendly person to talk to can make a world of difference during a time when everything feels overwhelming.

For more information or to register for daily calls, please contact the Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency at (207) 443-8210 or email gshaw@sagadahoccountyme.gov.

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