



RABBIT ISLAND SCHOOL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Contacts List

EMERGENCY

Rob Gorski (mobile)	9-1-1 (917) 861-7757
Andrew Ranville (mobile)	(906) 361-6030
Scott Hannula (mobile)	(906) 369-3008
Scott Hannula (Rabbit Bay home)	(906) 296-9077
Coast Guard Station Portage	(906) 482-1520 or VHF Radio Channel 16
Bootjack Fire Department Rescue	(906) 337-2211
Calumet State Police Post	(906) 337-5145
Portage Hospital	(906) 483-1000
Aspirus Hospital Laurium	(906) 337-6500
Mark Hannula (Rabbit Bay home)	(906) 296-0069
Bob and Phyllis Gorski (mobile)	(248) 885-6054 or (248) 312-8036

Medical Emergency

The nearest emergency medical care is at [Aspirus Keweenaw](#) in Laurium (18 miles from Rabbit bay) or [Portage Hospital](#) in Hancock (28 miles from Rabbit Bay).

- 1) Call the residency Administration and inform them of the situation.
- 2) The island's owner, Rob Gorski, is an Emergency Physician. Inform him of the situation.

Fire Emergency

- 1) Call the residency Administration and inform them of the situation.
- 2) Call the Bootjack Fire Department Rescue and inform them of the situation at (906) 337-2211.

Lightning, Wind or Rain Emergencies

- 1) Immediately seek shelter in the main camp or the sauna
- 2) Avoid open areas or lone tall objects

- 3) Suspend all water activities

Navigation Emergency

In the event of inclement weather do not attempt to cross the lake to the mainland. If leaving the island is deemed necessary for any reason do the following:

- 1) Call the residency Administration and inform them of the situation
- 2) Attempt to call others on the Emergency Contact list to communicate your situation
- 3) Call the Coast Guard Station Portage as a last resort for extraction from the island

Weather Information for Navigation

We have prepared a thorough resource for gauging the safety of crossing from the island to the mainland. Please visit the website below.

[Rabbit Island Navigation Website](#)

If you make a trip to the mainland and are unable to return to the island due to adverse weather, contact the residency Administration and they will arrange accommodation for you on the mainland.

[United States Coast Guard Radio Information and Procedures](#)

[NOAA Open Lake Forecast for Lake Superior](#)

This is reported for the entire lake and is updated every 6 hours. It is broken down into regional sections that can be scrolled through. The forecast that is most relevant to Rabbit Island is the one that is under the section "LAKE SUPERIOR WEST OF LINE FROM MANITOU ISLAND TO MARQUETTE MI". **Bookmark this to your phone home screen.** The same report can be heard on channel 2 (WX) on the VHF radio every 1/2 hour.

[NOAA Nearshore Marine Forecast for Lake Superior](#)

**SEARCH: "POINT ISABELLE TO LOWER ENTRANCE OF PORTAGE CANAL MI-
LOWER ENTRANCE OF PORTAGE CANAL TO HURON ISLANDS MI INCLUDING
KEWEENAW AND HURON BAYS"**

This is the forecast for weather and wind nearer to the shore but also important to check regularly. It is broken down into sections along the shoreline of the Keweenaw that can be scrolled through. The forecast that is most relevant to Rabbit Island is the one that is under the section. Have a look and bookmark it to the home screen of your phone. The same report can be heard on channel 2 (WX) on the VHF radio every 1/2 hour.

On the island the wind generally comes from the east or the west or some variation of those two (NE, SW, etc.). Rarely is there breeze directly from the north or south. Winds under 15 knots are generally not a safety issue. If a wind persists for more than several hours in the 20-30 knot range things become uncomfortable on the shoreline receiving the wind and the boats and moorings are put in danger.

+ **Northeast Wind:** In the setting of an easterly wind the Rabbit Island camp area is relatively sheltered in the lee of the island and the boat will not be stressed on the mooring by any significant wave force. However, it must be recognized that there is approximately 250 miles of [fetch](#) from Canada in the NE direction which creates a significant swell on Lake Superior. This fact can be deceiving while on the western shore of the island at camp, which will often appear calm. The eastern shore of the island receives large crashing waves in this situation, and occasionally, when waves are large enough, they will wrap around the curvatures of the northern island point and crash on shore in front of camp. This is a concept called [wave refraction](#). It is also important to recognize that an easterly wind brings large sets of breaking waves that crash against the harbor entrance in Rabbit Bay, often making entrance difficult or impossible without risking boat damage. On days with east winds above 20 knots it is thus recommended to postpone boating and stay on shore. If you are at camp and can hear waves crashing on the far shore through the trees, you can reliably assume that the waves are too large for a safe crossing. You can also look south from main camp at the reef to Eagle Rock. If there are waves crashing across this you can assume there will be large waves at the harbor entrance in Rabbit Bay. You can also use the binoculars and look across to the “Red Rock Bluffs” across from camp. If there is spray from crashing waves large enough to be seen from camp with binoculars or the naked eye assume that crossing is not advisable.

+ **West Wind:** There is only 4 miles of fetch between Rabbit Bay and Rabbit Island and because of this a westerly wind direction usually isn't a safety issue with wind velocities under 15 knots. When the blow is above 20 knots, however, the island camp takes the building waves directly on the nose, and a moored boat's transom may rise and fall with the swell, risking hull contact with the rocky lake bottom. This is sometimes uncomfortable for loading and unloading passengers as well, though is possible if necessary. A boat being pushed by strong winds can also stress the mooring hardware, though to date we haven't had any mooring failures. If a west wind becomes too forceful we will often run the boat around the southwest point to the safe shelter of the southern cove and leave it on the storm mooring (see map). This often means swimming back to shore and walking back to camp, or towing the rowboat behind the big boat, and using it to return to shore/camp. When approaching the mainland Keweenaw from the island during west winds the waves decrease in size as you approach and harbor entrances are calm.

COVID-19 Exposure Prevention, Preparedness & Response Plan

The Rabbit Island Foundation and the Portage Lake District Library take the health and safety of employees and students very seriously, and will remain vigilant in efforts to mitigate exposure to the COVID-19 virus. This plan was developed in accordance with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) pandemic orders, the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs' (LARA) Guidelines for Camp Operations During COVID-19, recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Portage Lake District Libraries Exposure Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plan. The provisions of this Exposure Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plan shall apply to all program hosts and participants and any person entering or providing services on Rabbit Island during Rabbit Island School.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by the Sars-CoV-2 virus. It is considered highly contagious. To mitigate the impact of COVID-19, provisions have been put in place to reduce exposure to island mentors and students. It is important to understand how COVID-19 spreads. The virus is thought to spread mainly indoors and from person to person, including:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about six (6) feet);
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Responsibilities of Program Administrators: It is the responsibility of the program administrators and island mentors to be knowledgeable of the COVID-19 Exposure Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plan; to implement the plan onsite; to be aware of the specific risk level of participants and to implement measures to mitigate that risk; and to be available to answer questions and concerns from participating students and families. It is expected that the program administrators and island mentors shall set a good example and follow this Plan at all times. This includes practicing good personal hygiene and safety practices to prevent the spread of the virus.

As set out in this plan, Rabbit Island School has instituted various guidelines related to social distancing requirements, personal protection equipment, and other best practices to reduce exposure to COVID-19. Administrators and program participants alike are required to comply with the following provisions:

- Remain home and cancel your participation in the program if you are sick or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms leading up to the expedition. Participants and administrators exhibiting signs of illness during the expedition will be sent home.
- Participants will report to administrators if they are experiencing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or if a member of their household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 prior to the program. Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include coughing, fever, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, body aches, sore throat, headache, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, loss of sense of smell or taste, and profound fatigue.

- Employees must practice good hygiene which includes frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and water is not available, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Follow appropriate respiratory etiquette which includes covering your nose and mouth with a tissue or the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Follow the social distancing and personal protection equipment guidelines contained in this plan.
- Regularly clean and sanitize shared areas, tools, tables and equipment as provided for in this plan.

Island Protective Measures: The following measures shall be implemented at all worksites and adhered to by all mentors, administrators and program participants:

- An administrator or mentor showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to leave the island for the duration of the program.
- On the morning of the program's start date, island mentors will be required to participate in a COVID-19 screening process which may include temperature checks and questions about symptoms they are experiencing and potential contact with any persons diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Mentors must avoid physical contact with others and shall direct others, including their peer mentors and program participants, to maintain social distancing standards where possible. Social distancing shall be observed during meal times.

Employee Illness or Exposure to COVID-19:

- **Illness:** Program administrators or mentors that are ill are required to stay home and seek appropriate medical attention. Said employees must notify the Library Director or Rabbit Island Foundation Director as soon as possible of the illness via text message, phone or email. Island mentors or administrators that report to work ill on the program's start date shall be sent home.
- **Notification of Exposure:** The Rabbit Island Foundation Director will notify mentors or student participants of any known exposure to COVID-19. Island mentors are required to comply with any quarantine recommendations after being exposed to the pandemic event.
- **Exposure and Quarantine:** Island mentors that have been exposed to an infected or quarantined individual and are not vaccinated should return home and self-quarantine. While awaiting transport from the island, individuals exposed or symptomatic should isolate alone in a location decided upon by program administrators and mentors. Individuals that are fully vaccinated are no longer advised to self-quarantine unless they become symptomatic.

Social Distancing: Social distance shall be observed on Rabbit Island whenever possible.

Social distancing requires that each employee:

- Maintain a distance of at least six (6) feet from other people, including in spaces used for overnight sleeping

Personal Protective Equipment & Island Practice Controls: To mitigate the exposure risk to COVID-19, Rabbit Island School will provide the following personal protective equipment:

- Island mentors, administrators and student participants will be provided with disposable face masks by request. While the CDC and MDHHS no longer require the use of face masks at small, outdoor events and gatherings, these masks will be made available for any program participant, mentor or administrator who chooses to wear one. All structures on Rabbit Island are three-sided shelters, and the absence of a fourth wall provides plenty of air circulation. While current MDHHS orders require masks to be worn at indoor public gatherings, structures on Rabbit Island are not considered indoor spaces.
- Gloves will also be provided by request. If gloves are not typically required for a task, then any type of glove is acceptable, including latex or vinyl gloves. Rabbit Island School participants and mentors or administrators should not share gloves. Gloves are not required, but participants, mentors and administrators should feel free to use them as they deem necessary.

Cleaning & Disinfecting: All common areas will be cleaned and sanitized at least once per day utilizing products identified by OSHA & the CDC as effective for eliminating COVID-19. Common areas include, but are not limited to:

- Doors
- Doorknobs and handles
- Kitchen area
- Chairs and tables
- Countertops
- Shared equipment

Cleaning & Disinfecting if someone is symptomatic: If someone has developed symptoms of COVID-19, the areas used by the individual must be cleaned and disinfected prior to being used again. Access to the area(s) should be closed off until the disinfecting has been completed.