

With the Vineyard Gazette – March 31, 2020
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The Martha's Vineyard Hospital confirmed eight cases of Covid-19 on the Island during their press briefing yesterday morning, five more than as of Saturday.

The Vineyard Gazette reports there have been 91 tests conducted to date; 73 were negative and 10 are pending. No one is currently hospitalized for the virus.

In other COVID-19 news, public officials on the Vineyard and Nantucket announced yesterday that construction bans on both Islands will remain in place following a Sunday conference call with three senior executives for Governor Charlie Baker.

According to the Vineyard Gazette, the decision resolves an earlier standoff between the governor and the two Islands over the ban.

Steamship Authority has been in "freefall" over the past several weeks according to the Vineyard Gazette.

Passenger traffic fell almost per cent overall for a five-day period in mid-March compared with the previous year. Car traffic overall was down 30 per cent. Excursion and non-excursion vehicle patterns have been significantly different with excursion car traffic falling dramatically, while non-excursion car traffic rose. Excursion traffic reflects island resident trips only.

The SSA has reduced the ferry schedule in the past few weeks. The service cuts were accompanied by about 65 employee layoffs.

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