

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
March 26, 2020 12:00 noon

Interstate Travel

For those needing to return to Vermont from other areas, or those needing to otherwise travel along the eastern seaboard, we could not find any travel prohibitions, especially along the interstate highway system. New Jersey has suspended toll collection, unless you have EZ Pass, then you will get billed for tolls.

The following is a website. Click on the state of your destination or one through which you will travel for up-to-date travel bulletins:

<https://i95coalition.org/511-travel-information/>

Food Services for Vulnerable Populations

The Vermont Retail Grocers Association lists food services statewide for vulnerable populations.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1b859U4ovN_JD-O0c_8HQwu6n1cYi0NZcEro6CQGd388/edit#gid=0

Locally, from this site, Hannaford's has reserved time for seniors 6am -- 7am Tuesdays and Thursdays; Middlebury Natural Foods Coop reserves 9 am -- 10am for limited curbside delivery, call 388-7276.

Food Supply, as of March 21, 2020

Vermont Retail and Grocers' Association (VRGA) Supply Chain Update:

Bread: Worsening situation, suppliers moved to 24/7 production which increased output by 50%, but demand is +200%.

Milk: Supply is okay, trucking/logistics is barrier causing out-of-stocks at stores.

Eggs: Supply tightening and cost jumping. Okay for now, but could worsen.

Cheese: will take 1-2 weeks to catch up to pre-COVID-19 levels.

Paper & Bath Tissue: Continue to get product in quantities much greater than what was sold in prior years. Paper Towels starting to improve.

Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Isopropyl Alcohol: No recovery in sight that will meet demand. There will be significantly increased demand going forward.

Meat: Continued struggles to secure core proteins: Chicken, Pork and Ground Beef. Chicken outlook continues to not look good. Beef outlook is improving.

Vermont DMV has waived the requirements for 5-axle trucks to need a permit to operate 92,000-pound vehicles for food deliveries. The Federal Highway authorities have likewise relaxed restrictions on transports and have cleared the way for expedited food-chain deliveries.

Stay-At-Home Order

The Governor's stay-at-home order, effective March 25 at 5:00 p.m., **is NOT** a shelter-in-place order.

The intent is to encourage people to avoid unnecessary travel. We encourage you to get out and get fresh air and exercise. Wash your hands often, for at least 20 seconds with sudsy soap and water; maintain social distancing; cover up when coughing or sneezing; if you have disinfectant wipes, wipe down common surfaces you may need to touch -- gas pump nozzles, door knobs, ATM touch screens, and the like. If not use a barrier like a paper towel. Don't spread the disease by inadvertent touching. Contaminated hands will contaminate other surfaces. Think about that. And if you are sick, stay home.

You **do not** need "papers" or "authorization" to travel. The police **are not** stopping people to check for papers or inquire about your destination. Help everyone stop the virus in its tracks.

Only you may prevent wild fires, but it takes everyone to stop the spread of COVID-19!

Stress on Cellular Services

Reports are coming in from around the country of diminished cell service due to the volume of streaming over the cellular network. This has not yet occurred in Vermont, but with stay-at-home orders, schools closed, people out of work, the potential for streaming on the cell network is there. Keep this in mind when streaming rather than using hard-wire based networks.

Flushing Sense

Bob Wells, Superintendent of the Middlebury Waste Water Treatment Plant reports the following:

We are receiving reports from Wastewater Facilities across Vermont/USA about clogs in their systems due to the increase in disposal of Lysol type wipes, and people flushing things other than toilet paper down their toilets.

For instance, the Town of South Windsor Public Works reported that 4 of their 11 pump stations were clogged earlier this week due to sanitizing wipes and paper towels.

We realize that there are many priorities during this crisis but with many Wastewater and Public Works crews operating at minimum staffing levels this is a public health/environmental issue as well as creating increased risk to system operators while clearing the clogs. We realize that using alternative items to wipe could be difficult to deal with due to the shortage of toilet paper, but it can also clog the house's pipes.

*If you are using anything other than toilet paper, **do NOT** flush. Use a plastic bag or other disposable container, discard the cleaning waste in there, close and seal in so far as possible, and put in the trash.*

The same goes if you are on a septic system. Paper towels, wipes, etc. will not break down and will clog your pipes, which could result in a backup.

Only 3P's -- Pee, poop and toilet paper should go into your toilet.

Tom Hanley
Middlebury Police Chief &
Local Emergency Management Director

