

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
September 1, 2020

Another Authentic Source of COVID Info!

A message from Nicole Webb at Porter Medical Center:

Porter Medical Center is excited to share the launch of their new UVM Health Network social media campaign called **Spread Facts, Not COVID-19**. Each week, they will bust COVID-19 myths, answer questions and explore facts from their experts through quick and relevant social posts to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Their aim: reinforce masking, handwashing and social distancing while demystifying some of the changing and confusing information about this pandemic.

Here's the ask: You are invited to share these posts on your social channels to help amplify these important messages in our communities. They will cover timely topics such as returning to school, vaccines, immunity, and social gatherings, to name a few.

Want to join? Simply email nwebb@portermedical.org and you'll be added to the weekly email.

The Good and Not So Good

First the good news. Of the 1,109 Middlebury College students tested on August 28 and 29, there were zero positive results; 1,103 tests were negative; and six individuals will be retested due to insufficient samples. They also received 26 additional results from retesting, and all were negative. This brings the total number of tests at the college to 2,577 with 1 positive test. These are the day "zero" tests with a second round going on Day 7. You can follow the results of this testing on the dashboard set up for this: <https://www.middlebury.edu/office/midd2021/covid-reporting-dashboard>

Now the not so good, out of Rutland County from the "It Just Goes to Show You" department- VDH is investigating a community outbreak of COVID-19 cases in Rutland County. The outbreak is associated with people who attended a private party at the Summit Lodge in Killington on August 19, 2020.

To date, the Health Department has identified 14 cases among people who attended the event and their close contacts – meaning the virus has spread to one or more people who did not attend the private party. Health officials said Summit Lodge followed state protocols and guidance and has been a cooperative partner in the outbreak investigation.

The Health Department contact tracing team has been working to reach the more than 40 party attendees. Contact tracing is a critical part of the state's ability to contain outbreaks, and officials urge anyone who is contacted to please respond to calls from the department.

Ahh, the vigor of youth, 25 and bullet proof... until you infect grandma who is neither. There's a price to be paid for being frivolous, footloose and fancy-free.

Addison County Cases –Let’s Be Careful and Mindful Out There

In March and April a total of 61 positive COVID cases were reported in Addison County. In the 3-month period of May through July there were only 11 cases reported. A good downward trend. But oh-oh, then came August. Ten (10) positive cases were reported in August alone. Still a low number, but a concerning trend. With school opening and our Middlebury population increased by 25%, and soon, as Jim Gish tells us, downtown is opening up, this is no time to loosen the guard.

Don’t Let a Pandemic Deprive You of Your Vote

The Vermont Secretary of State will be mailing General Election ballots to all active voters on the checklist starting September 21, 2020. They will be pulling the names and addresses from the voter checklist on Monday August 31, 2020. If you change your voter registration after August 31, 2020, or register as a new voter after that date, or if you would like your ballot mailed to an address other than you previously indicated you will not necessarily automatically receive a ballot from the Secretary of State’s Office. When registering to vote or making changes to your address after August 31, 2020 make sure to enquire about obtaining your ballot.

The Middlebury Town Clerk’s Office will not be open for in-person early voting. Ballots may be mailed to 77 Main Street Middlebury VT 05753, or deposited in the secure drop-box outside the Town Office building (which we should have in place soon). Although we would like to strongly encourage voters to return their ballots as early as possible ballots may be dropped off on Election Day at the polls at 154 Creek Road, the Middlebury Recreation Center. You will not have to go through the polls to drop off your ballot.

If you have not received your ballot by the first week in October email the Town Clerk at awebster@townofmiddlebury.org. You may also call 802-388-8100 X211, X212 or X213 and leave a message.

The polls will be open on Election Day November 3, 2020 from 7am to 7pm at 154 Creek Road, the Middlebury Recreation Center