

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
September 4, 2020

Rumor Control

Misinterpretation of the CDC report on deaths due to COVID has spawned rumors of over reporting. Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD, sought to debunk a misleading claim that “only 6%” of the reported COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. are solely attributable to the new coronavirus.

This misleading claim stems from an Aug. 26 update the Centers for Disease Control posted on its website, which provides a detailed breakdown of the accompanying health conditions and contributing causes of death reported in people who have died of the new coronavirus in the United States.

The other 94% of the deaths were among people who had underlying health issues – issues that were part of their health profiles – but each of these people died from COVID-19.

“I have to make it clear,” Dr. Levine said, at last Tuesday’s press conference. “Many of these people [with chronic conditions] would not have died this year if COVID was not here. They’ve had this burden of disease that they’ve lived with for sometimes months, sometimes years, sometimes decades. COVID tipped them over. It was overwhelming and their system couldn’t handle it.”

Here is a link to the full CDC report:

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm#Comorbidities

Students Are Here, Things Still Look Good

27,174 tests were administered to students arriving in all of Vermont. These tests identified 33 positive COVID cases, a .12% positive rate. Here at home, Middlebury College has administered 3,412 tests with 2 students testing positive and no employees testing positive. You can follow this on the COVID-19 dashboard the college has set up:

<https://www.middlebury.edu/office/midd2021/covid-reporting-dashboard>

Recreational and School Sports Update

- Beginning September 8, cloth face coverings must be worn by all players, coaches, officials, staff and spectators at all times when physical distance of six feet cannot be consistently maintained, including during practices, scrimmages, games, meets and competitions for sports that involve contact or close proximity.
- Anyone with a documented medical or behavioral reason for not wearing a facial covering should not be required to wear one.
- Referees and other game officials are exempt from wearing a mask during active play if masking inhibits their ability to officiate (i.e., blow a whistle). Referees and other game officials must have a mask on their person at all times and are required to wear a mask during arrival, departure, warm-ups, half-time,

etc., and anytime there is need to approach a player or coach to explain a call or manage the game when six feet of physical distance cannot be maintained.

- All players, coaches, officials, staff, and spectators should complete a health check before arriving at practice sessions, scrimmages, games, meets or competitions.

See the full rules for sports here, scroll down to Section 9.1

<https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order#close-contact-business-stage-2>

This Week's Numbers And More

Over 68,000 COVID tests were administered in Vermont in August, yielding 214 positive cases with no deaths. In the past week, 52 new cases were confirmed in Vermont. This is still the lowest case growth in the country, but growth it still is, indeed. Imagine a week with lots of tests and no new cases! If you're traveling this weekend, make sure you check the travel map. Some things have changed. Cape Cod has gone from green to orange, York County in Maine is red but all other downeast coastal counties are back to green. Connecticut is spiking with quarantine required for all counties; so much for that gambling junket to Mohegan Sun or Foxwoods. Rhode Island is a mess as is most of Mass. Most of New Hampshire is good.

Stay safe this Labor Day weekend, and relax – do the same for COVID, it's tired, give it a holiday break from the ardors of its labor running around infecting people and let it rest and die off.