

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
November 9, 2020

IRS Has a Heart?

Yes, Virginia, IRS has a heart, perhaps a cold heart much of the time, but a heart none the less. Here is an IRS program that may help those in need. "Coronavirus Tax Relief and Economic Impact Payments for Individuals and Families"

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-tax-relief-and-economic-impact-payments-for-individuals-and-families>

State Officials Advise Social Gatherings Should Be Limited to 10 People or Fewer

Governor Phil Scott and Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD, announced an advisory on social gatherings, strongly recommending they be limited to 10 or fewer people. While this is not a mandate or an emergency order rule, it's hoped that the current rising tide of COVID can be stemmed for the holidays.

At Friday's press conference, Dr. Levine noted that Vermont, like many other states, is seeing cases of COVID-19 as a result of socializing. Contact tracers have documented events that have contributed to COVID-19 transmission in Vermont, including holiday parties, birthday parties, dinner parties, baby showers and barbecues.

"This applies to all gatherings, including just getting together with friends socially at home, on campus, or around town," Dr. Levine said. "Now is the time to keep our social circles small."

He added that even within this limit, Vermonters should only gather with a very limited number of trusted households. COVID-19 can spread easily among people in close contact who may not know they have the virus.

Governor Scott added: "We strongly advise Vermonters to limit gatherings in general, and if you host them, be smart and take precautions. I know this is difficult news, especially around the holidays. But by being smart about gatherings and travel now, we can keep schools and our economy open, and we will get through this pandemic faster and on better footing than just about any other state."

Planning on Skiing?

Attached is the guidance for ski areas. If skiing is your thing, this is what you can expect when headed to the slopes:

<https://acd.vermont.gov/sites/acdnew/files/documents/Vermont%20Ski%20Resort%20COVID-19%20Winter%20Operations%20Guidance%20-%202020-11-03.pdf>

Vermont BIPOC Business Survey- Tech Support in Times of Crisis (Like COVID)

The Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity launched a survey to gauge interest in

the creation of an entity to serve the needs of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) business owners in Vermont. The entity would provide technical assistance to BIPOC business owners and assist in securing state and federal grants to support businesses in times of crisis. The survey is open until November 15th.

<https://vermontpartnership.org/2020/10/26/bipoc-business-survey/>

Statewide Mass Feeding Plan Update:

The Farmers-to-Families food box program, run by the Vermont Foodbank, will be extended through December 31st. The USDA awarded Lancaster Foods, a Maryland company, the contract for Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Vermont has been allocated 17,906 boxes of food for this round of distribution; each box will have 32 pounds of food. Distributions are anticipated to resume the week of November 16th.

Status of Isolation and Recovery Sites:

This is the AHS program that provides lodging for the homeless and those in need during the COVID pandemic.

The Ho Hum Motel isolation and recovery site has 8 adult residents as of 11/05.
General Assistance Motel Summary as of 11/06: 1,560 rooms; 1,832 adults; 373 children. If anyone wondered what the status of homeless in Vermont is, these are the hard numbers, keeping in mind that not all homeless have elected to receive these services.