

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
November 10, 2020

COVID is Spreading Like This Week's Mid-Fall Sunshine

The health folks warned us months ago, we knew it was coming, and it's here! 46 new Vermont cases overnight; 12 new Addison County cases in the past 2 weeks; 1st Vermont death in 4 months reported on Saturday. If Vermont used the green/yellow/ red color system for counties, we'd have 6 red counties, 6 yellow counties and only 2 green counties (Franklin and Rutland).

On the northeast travel map, only Aroostook County in Maine and Fulton County, NY are green. The mid-Vermont "hockey" outbreak is now up to 125 cases with 76 at St. Mike's. A new outbreak is reported at the Rutland Health and Rehab facility, with 7 patients and 1 staff person testing positive. VDH expects 40-60 cases per day into December. Uh-oh.

112,000 new infections nationwide since yesterday.

The news locally is that infections in Midd remain low, still at only 9 since March 5. A credit to all the "Middies" out there setting a good example. Stay the course!

The Fallout from COVID Growth

- Compliance checks will start soon. Both locally for general compliance with orders and a bit more intensive by state officials for places of gathering like restaurants, bars and lodgings. Persistent violators will be referred to the Attorney General.
- The Cross State Travel map is suspended. Any non-essential travel into Vermont from anyplace outside of Vermont requires a 14 day quarantine or 7 day quarantine plus a negative test at day 7.
- Gatherings are capped at 10. Recommended fewer than 10.
- With respect to the Governor's Orders, "everything is on the table" and being reviewed, including phased re-opening.
- Out-of-state hunters and skiers and Thanksgiving guests are not exempt from quarantine requirements.

The intent is to put the brakes on COVID growth. Expect the Governor to extend the State of Emergency and COVID orders to December 15.

Testing

If you have attended an event with people who are not in your usual social circle, including post-election gatherings over the past weekend, please avoid close contact with others and consider getting tested. You can get tested now -- as well as 7 days after the event or gathering.

Asymptomatic testing is on-going and will increase to 7 days a week. Some of this will be self-administered PCR testing (the reliable type of test). It's good to get tested and set a baseline. Tuesday testing is on-going at the Health Department district office at 156 South Village (by registration only). There is a plan for 1st responders to go through regular surveillance testing to ensure no community transmission which can deplete 1st response ability. This link will get you schedules and places for testing.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested>