

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
November 12, 2020

Unprecedented Growth

A timely message from 1960's pop-culture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RG0ochx16Dg>
109 new cases of COVID reported today; 72 new cases Wednesday; 46 new cases Tuesday. Talk about trending- this isn't a good one. There have been 17 new cases in Addison County in the past two weeks and 19 people are currently hospitalized and 5 are in ICU's. The VDH town by town count is a week old and has not been updated so many of the Addison County cases are not yet attributed town by town. In anticipation of case growth surge capacity facilities are being re-opened in Rutland and Essex.

The concern of late is that the early numbers of COVID in Vermont were primarily within closed facilities. This time, the numbers are widespread and based on community wide transmission. COVID is on the loose.

So look back seven to fourteen days – Halloween gatherings and other social activities. Contact tracing has revealed community transmission, gatherings with close contact with no protection; travel restrictions unheeded.

Time to hunker down, there's no place like home for the holidays.

Compliance Checks Are On!

We were afraid it would come to this but with rapid case growth it's on. This message from Commissioner Schirling of the Vermont Department of Public Safety:

As the Governor and Commissioner Peciak highlighted Tuesday, we have entered a period of time where following health and safety guidance to protect yourself, your family and friends, neighbors, coworkers and others is more important than ever. Last night we received 109 positive test results and 24 Vermonters became hospitalized. This is the highest level of test positivity we have seen and it is projected to grow. Vermont will be expanding our medical surge capacity given the level of concern there is about case growth.

A few key recurring messages are below:

- Following the travel/quarantine guidance is essential
- Being mindful of personal responsibility and safety in our homes is equally important
- And for businesses - doing your part as facilitators of travel and gathering to mitigate the spread of the virus has never been more important - not only for the safety of your staff and customers - but for the stability of our economy.

As case counts all around us and here in Vermont climb the Department of Public Safety (DPS) will be implementing and expanding a strategy used in the spring - assessments of key locations for compliance with health and safety guidance.

In Middlebury, police will be visiting lodgings, restaurants, bars, and common gathering places to assess the level of compliance and where needed, encourage compliance going forward. This will establish a baseline of compliance. All compliance assessments will be reported to DPS. We have notified the Better Middlebury Partnership to let participating entities be aware of this.

GET TESTED!

If you've been to a gathering in the past week or two, VDH recommends you sign up for testing. VDH would like make sure you don't wait until symptoms show up in order to reduce the opportunity for the disease to spread!

Emergency Order to be Extended

Expect the Governor's Emergency Order to be extended at least another month this weekend with the potential for new addendums. Among those, there will be alterations to the "Stay Home- Stay Safe" posture used in the spring. According to Comm. Schirling the plan will be more 'surgical'. Stay tuned for tomorrow's media conference with the Governor at 11 a.m. on WCAX and WPTZ.

So far the Governor's new guidelines places a limit on gatherings to ten people and within family groups.

We'll end today's bulletin with a quote from Wilma Rudolph, the great Olympian who knew a bit about struggle: "Believe me, the reward is not so great without a struggle". The reward here then is to slow, stop, and end the spread of COVID, while first reversing the current trend.