

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
November 18, 2020

More Infections

51 new cases of COVID were identified overnight in Vermont. 35 of these cases were recorded in the most recently troubled counties- Washington, Orange, and Chittenden. 2 counties had no new cases and the rest had 3 or less. Other than the big 3, that's pretty good news. Those 3 counties are still compounding their numbers on secondary and tertiary effects of the "hockey" Central Vermont outbreak last month.

Two Midd College students accounted for the 2 cases in Addison County. It was only a few weeks ago that we were getting daily case counts as single numbers. Now 51 in one day seems not so bad. Not a good thing to get used to.

Canadian Not-So-Thankful Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day in Canada was October 12. Family and acquaintance gatherings related to that holiday resulted in a large spike in cases. Oh Canada! Thank you for giving us a practical example of what not to do this U.S. Thanksgiving.

Notes On Testing

There is a great demand for testing right now, and we'll provide information below from Porter Hospital on the latest testing initiative.

- For testing to be of value, it should be scheduled appropriately. In other words, if coming into Vermont on quarantine, do not get tested on day 3, day 4, etc. For purposes of shortening quarantine, those tests have no value. You must wait until day 7 at least.
- If you have an illness or COVID symptoms, do not go to pop-up testing or the pod testing which has recently commenced at Porter. You must make an appointment with your healthcare provider, or any healthcare provider if you don't have one. Failing that, call 2-1-1.
- If you go to register at a specific site and it's listed as "FULL", then it is full and probably won't be able to accommodate a walk-in. Call 2-1-1.
- If you make an appointment for testing, make every effort to be there at the date and time. There are too many examples of no-shows at appointed times. This only keeps others from getting tested.
- Avoid constant repeat testing every week, especially if you've had no symptoms or had no at-risk exposure.
- Asymptomatic testing at pop-up sites does not require a health care provider's referral.

Porter Hospital Expanded Testing

In partnership with VDH/CIC Health, Porter Medical Center will serve as a host site for expanded drive through testing operations seven days per week as a supplement to its existing testing programs. **This testing process is the most ideal testing location for all asymptomatic patients, patients with known COVID-19 exposures or patients with recent travel. Please do not call Porter facilities for information on scheduling, testing or results. Patients may register and self-schedule on the VDH website. 211 is the best agency to answer any questions.** Symptomatic patients should continue to follow the existing process and communicate with their Primary Care Provider.

Schedule:

- Expanded Testing will start Monday, Nov. 16th
- This testing will be held 4 weekdays during afternoons, 1 weekday evening and both weekend days for 7 day/week testing options.
 - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 1 pm – 5 pm
 - Thursday 5 pm – 8 pm
 - Saturday and Sunday 9 am – 2 pm
- CIC will use PMC's existing drive up testing center during the days/hours that PMC is not running its own testing operations.

Scheduling and Testing Procedure: (As hosts of expanded testing operations, PMC will **not** order, schedule, support specimen collection, analysis or result reporting/management.)

- Scheduling:
 - Patients may register and self-schedule on the [VDH website](#).
 - The VDH/CIC testers can accommodate walk ins even if the test schedule is full or patients are unable to schedule a test appointment.
 - **Anyone with questions regarding scheduling, testing, and results should contact 211** and NOT Porter Medical Center or the existing PMC testing location.
- Arrival:
 - Patients will follow the existing signage directing them to the VDH/CIC testing personnel. Patients should remain in the vehicle for this drive through testing location.
 - Patients will be greeted by VDH/CIC staff as they enter the testing area.
- Collection:
 - Swabs are Anterior Nares and will be self-collected by patients with direct observation by the staff.
 - CIC staff will send them directly to Broad Lab via UPS/courier.
- Results
 - Results are expected within 2-3 business days
 - Results will flow into Care Evolve portal which patients can access directly. Providers will not have access to this portal.
 - Results will also flow to VDH and they will notify any positive cases

- Results will also eventually flow into VITL so providers can have access to findings.
- Primary Care Providers will not be directly notified of positive cases.