

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
November 23, 2020

Monday, Monday

We averaged 85 new infections a day this weekend. That's a downturn from last week, and hopefully a declining trend. Too soon to tell. And Middlebury isn't immune from higher numbers with 8 new cases in the past two weeks.

What About those Seemingly Conflicting Gov's Orders?

You know, you've read the letters, heard the concerns. You're a grandparent and babysit for your grandchild every day. On Wednesday you drive the child home but on Thursday you can't have Thanksgiving dinner with them. Or another one- you ride-share to work every day but can't take a walk together after work without staying 6' apart and masking. We'll try to simplify things here:

What caused the recent surge in cases? It wasn't ride sharing or any of that. It was large gatherings where the COVID precautions were disregarded, it was visiting out-of-state red areas and not following quarantine orders or bringing in others from red areas with no quarantine. Recklessness. And once unknowingly infected it was not following masking or social distancing.

There is no one-size fits all solution. The Governor's guidance and orders are to accomplish what volunteer cooperation did not- stem the rising tide of COVID. We all know now what caused the outbreak. It CAN happen here, HAS happened here, and no one is immune. We also know now how to deter infections - pure and simple it's behavior. Don't crowd like sardines in a can - close contact for more than an aggregate 15 minutes creates a risky exposure; if you take entire households and extended family and put them in a blender (or a dining room) you're asking for trouble. Let the rules and the reasons for the rules be your guide. Avoid being a contributor to the infection spread. "But my cousin Joey is healthy, he doesn't have COVID". Sorry, you don't know that, and that's the point.

Testing Maze

Want asymptomatic testing? Testing is now done by a VDH contractor, CIC, and is done via drive through. No need to queue up and stand in line. While you don't need a GPS but you may get callouses on your fingers navigating the registration screens. Easy enough, just a lot of screens. It's like following the Yellow Brick Road without the witch or flying monkeys to bother you. Here you go:

Go to [Healthvermont.gov](https://healthvermont.gov) and click on TESTING on the menu on the left side of the screen. You'll see a list of test dates and times. Then click on "Register for Pop-Up testing". Your digital journey has now begun. You'll get a form that looks like the one below requiring name, email address and phone number with these instructions:

Welcome to the COVID-19 pop-up testing portal. Through this portal you can register for an account for COVID-19 testing at a pop-up testing event run by the Vermont Department of Health. Once your results are ready, you can [log in](#) to see your test results.

To register:

1. Create an account.
2. Check your email to verify your account and get your Patient ID (check your spam folder if you don't see the email).
3. Log in with your Patient ID.
4. Register for a testing event.

For help or technical assistance: Please call the Vermont Department of Health COVID-19 Call Center at (802) 863-7240

- You'll then get an email with your patient ID# and a link to continue.
- You'll get a new form where you enter your patient ID, email address and create a password.
- Okay, you're not done yet.
- There is a consent screen, and you continue clicking on your way to get testing.
- Next, another form comes up seeking your details.
- Then you'll click on "schedule an appointment" and a location.

It doesn't appear that you can register for testing beyond the test dates (a week at a time) posted on the VDH pop-up testing site. So be patient. The CIC testing is still new and the kinks are being worked out. It takes time, but it's not like crossing the Donner Pass in winter where you'll get stranded in blizzards and have to eat your relations. Just takes a few minutes and lots of clicks to get through.