

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
December 2, 2020

Health Department to Begin Reporting “Probable” COVID-19 Cases

Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD, said the Health Department will begin including probable cases in the total number of COVID-19 cases reported in Vermont starting today.

The number of cases of COVID-19 the Health Department currently reports includes only cases confirmed by a PCR test.

A case is considered “probable” if the person:

- tested positive on an antigen test AND has symptoms of COVID-19 OR epidemiologic evidence, OR...
- has symptoms of COVID-19 AND is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case of COVID-19

For all probable cases, Health Department teams take the same public health actions as if the person was a confirmed case (by PCR test). This means that contact tracers conduct interviews with probable cases, provide isolation guidance, and their close contacts are notified to quarantine.

Reporting probable cases as part of the total counts will more fully capture COVID-19 activity in Vermont, at a time when antigen testing is increasing, particularly in places like nursing homes.

The impact on the data right now is minimal – about 120 cases that are considered probable will be included in the total cases.

Phishing is NOT Fishing... Neither is it a Trey Anastasio Performance

In COVID times fishing is a great way to get out in the fresh air, stay socially distant, find calm, and get away from the distressing news. If it ever gets cold ice fishing could be right around the corner. We published a notice last week about Phishing scams for unemployment and workers comp claims. Since the problem is on-going we’re attaching a link to the Department of Labor bulletin on phishing. Some things can’t be warned too much. Predators seek out the most vulnerable for exploitation and we’re seeing it play out every day.

<https://labor.vermont.gov/press-release/department-labor-alerts-vermonters-active-phishing-scam>

What the heck, just to help you understand the difference between “Phishing” and “Phish” here’s a Vermont appropriate tune by the latter. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48tz_8NZp5c

And they won’t try to scam you.

COVID Updates

A tip of the hat to Middlebury and Addison County folks who have been doing their best to keep COVID diminished. Addison County had 21 new infections in the past two weeks. While that seems high compared to the summer when we’d go weeks without any new infections, 11 Vermont counties had far higher COVID totals in the same time period.

Eight Vermont counties now have higher aggregate COVID totals while Lamoille, Caledonia, and Orleans are catching up. At a time when COVID is running amuck all around us, we can take pride that we're doing our part to keep it at bay. It's not about compliance with government orders, it's all about being safe and thwarting every move that COVID tries to make.