

Town of Middlebury  
Emergency Management Bulletin  
December 3, 2020

**The Regional COVID Report**

As we wait with baited breath for the potential post-Thanksgiving outbreak, we'll post the regional numbers from the period November 25- Dec. 2.. None of these are good. We even hit a slight 'bounce-up' yesterday with 101 new infections statewide.

CT -11,794 MA- 17,114 ME-1,181 NH-3,384 NY-50,146 RI-6,482. And so it goes in these pandemic times.

But WHOA! Today there are 178 new infections reported with 39 people hospitalized, includes 12 new cases in Addison County. A week after Thanksgiving. Hmmm. Ask and you shall receive I suppose. Let's see what happens in the following days. A fluke or a disturbing trend?

**What You Need to Know Now – From VDH- Can do's and Should Not Do's**

Vermont has experienced a surge in new COVID-19 cases. Recent data have shown that social gatherings, both inside and outside, at homes, bars and social clubs, and among sports teams are currently driving outbreaks in Vermont. This is why there are restrictions on social gatherings at this time.

This is what you **cannot** do:

- You are not allowed to gather with people you don't live with. This includes all inside and outside social, recreational and entertainment gatherings, and in public and private spaces. For example, this means you cannot go over to a family member or friend's house or go to a restaurant with someone you don't live with.
- Visitors to Vermont cannot gather with Vermonters or with people from another traveling group. This includes sharing lodging with another household or traveling group. Travelers may not stay with a Vermont host or stay in a Vermont lodging establishment or short-term rental with another household. Even if they have completed a quarantine, or intend to quarantine with another household, they may not gather with another household in Vermont.

This is what you **can** do:

- People who live alone may gather with people who live in one other household.
- People can take in and shelter those from another household who are living in a dangerous, unhealthy or otherwise unsafe situation.
- You can do outdoor fitness activities with one other person from another household. However, both of you must stay at least 6 feet away from each other and wear a mask at all times. For example, you can bike, hike, walk or run with one of your neighbors.
- Visitors to Vermont can socialize only with the people they are traveling with.

It is not considered a social gathering if you have contact with someone for less than 15 minutes, you both are wearing masks, and you stay at least 6 feet apart (for example, checking on a neighbor, friend or family member not in your household). You are allowed to come in contact with members of other households in settings that continue to operate – such as schools, workplaces, retail stores, close contact businesses, etc. – as long as all the required health protocols are followed.

Vermont data at this time does not point to dining at restaurants, gyms, or other close contact businesses as drivers of outbreaks, and current safety protocols at these businesses are working. This is why they are remaining open.

We must all do our part to slow the spread, ensure hospitals are not overwhelmed, help schools continue to offer in-person instruction, and keep as many Vermonters working as possible.

We know this is difficult, but hope that as Vermonters follow this guidance, and we can return to the low case numbers we had and ease restrictions once again.

Also seek testing if you are a close contact of a case. If you gathered with others outside your household, quarantine and get tested right away, and on Day 7 or later

### **And What About Christmas?**

Keeping things as normal as possible, the above notwithstanding, during the pandemic is beneficial especially for the young 'uns. Perhaps Dr. Fauci, ACCD, VDH, and Governor Scott can take a hint from Ireland's Minister of Defense when it comes to a certain person's essential travel at Christmas:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTa4m0AMcEY&feature=youtu.be>