

Town of Middlebury  
Emergency Management Bulletin  
December 7, 2020

**Weekend Look-Back**

*Over hill, over dale, we have hit the COVID trail, and those cases, keep marching along....* (with apologies to John Phillips Sousa). 317 new cases since Friday in Vermont. Addison County has hit 43 cases in the last 14 days.

In spite of this, cases seem to be flattening out, with another week to go in the Thanksgiving gathering watch. The good thing is that for the most part we're all putting up stiff resistance to the COVID spread and recent surge. Officers conducting compliance checks were well received with no pushback. Mask wearing and distancing seem to be the norm. No one wants to get sick or hospitalized over Christmas and New Year's, or BECAUSE of Christmas and New Year's.

**Status Report from the State**

National trends show decrease in record high case numbers, positivity rates, and hospitalizations from one week ago in all regions of the country except the northeast which is flattening. The general trends in Vermont are slightly decreasing cases, hospitalizations and deaths over the ten days as an indication that reduction in multifamily gatherings and other infection controls may have been effective.

There remain concerns that Thanksgiving could have resulted in more cases that may be seen after the first week of December. ICU and medical/surgical bed capacity is projected to meet anticipated hospitalizations over the next four weeks.

Despite more use of ICU beds and ventilators for non-COVID19 patients, a sufficient number remain available for current hospitalized cases that need them. The rates for the percentage of emergency department visits with COVID19 symptoms and viral growth and reproduction are approaching 4%. The test positivity rate is approaching the 5% threshold for Restart Vermont metrics. Recent changes in travel restrictions, occupancy numbers, social gathering restrictions are designed to decelerate this community transmission and early data suggest they are having success.

**Need to be connected to food resources?**

If your financial situation has recently changed, you may now qualify for Vermont nutrition and food programs. They include: WIC program (Women, Infants and Children), 3SquaresVT/SNAP, and more. Newer programs such as Farmers to Families and Everyone Eats are helping to fill the gaps. All these programs can help keep healthy food on the table.

Contact the Health Department, Hunger Free Vermont at <https://www.hungerfreevt.org/coronavirus> or call 2-1-1 for more information.

**Special Note from the Town Manager**

Here's a new song written and performed by our multi-talented, yet humble, Emergency Management Director:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enA6HxuxBV8&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=O%27hAnleighMusic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enA6HxuxBV8&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=O%27hAnleighMusic)