

Town of Middlebury  
Emergency Management Bulletin  
December 11, 2020

**Update on Probable Cases Being Included in Daily Case Counts**

Starting December 2nd, probable cases were included in the total number of COVID-19 cases reported in Vermont.

A case is considered “probable” if the person:

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

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

It’s important to know that throughout the pandemic the Health Department has responded to people considered as probable cases in the same way as with those who are confirmed cases. This includes providing guidance and recommendations as well as contact tracing.

What we’ll clarify for a future bulletin is whether or not the probables are then deleted from the case count if the presumptive positive ends up being a negative after a PCR or presumptive test.

**What Does COVID Look Like In Addison County**

There seems to be a regular dribble of COVID infections daily in Addison County. Confirmed case counts reveal that since March, less than 1 person in 100 has been infected, or 5.9 people per 1,000. That seems pretty low, but keeping in mind that the case count keeps growing and if precautions aren’t maintained, those numbers can grow exponentially as experienced in other areas.

The state death toll is up to 93, while today’s case count is 113. The count through December 9 for Middlebury is 40 cases. Middlebury, which remained so low through most of the pandemic, is now showing unprecedented case growth, once again reminding us that COVID’s arrived for the holidays. That’s a higher rate of infection than the rest of the county.

There appears to be over 2,100 known active COVID cases spread throughout the state at this time. Those knowns are currently under care. As daily case growth is demonstrating, unknowns are out there prowling about- symptomatic or asymptomatic, and we don’t know what that number is. Active is active and presents a hidden health threat as it hides in plain sight.

**Presentation On Helping to Stop the Spread of COVID**

If this bulletin, the PSAs, the briefings weren’t enough to provide good information on helping to stop the spread of COVID, the Vermont Council on Rural Development is hosting a presentation. Here’s the info:

VCRD is partnering with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont's Chief Medical Officer, Kate McIntosh, M.D. to bring you a short and informative online seminar providing the latest guidance to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This 60-minute session will include a presentation from Dr. McIntosh covering the latest trajectories of virus spread, the different types of COVID-19 testing, and specific protocols around when it is necessary to quarantine and how to do so effectively. During and after the presentation Dr. McIntosh will dedicate time to answering your questions.

Tuesday, December 15

3:30 – 4:30 PM

[Click here to register.](#)

All Vermonters have a role to play in slowing the spread of COVID-19 and many of us face difficult choices as we go about our lives. Many of us also are leaders within our community, which means we share the responsibility to help our state succeed in fighting this pandemic. Vermont has shown tremendous resolve and responsiveness over the last 10 months, and as the cold weather arrives and we eagerly await the arrival of a vaccine, now is perhaps the most important time to be vigilant. We hope you will join us for this online workshop as we all work to stay well and help flatten the curve.