

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
December 15, 2020

Emergency Order Extended

The Governor extended his emergency order for a tenth straight month, through January 15, 2021. There are no amendments or updates to the order and all prior provisions remain in place. The proverbial spigot is jammed right now.

Vaccine

1,950 units of the Pfizer vaccine arrived in Vermont on Monday, another 1,950 arrived today. Of the first group 975 units went to UVM health Center and 975 to the State Vaccine Depot. Later this week 1,950 units will go to Kinney Drugs, Rite-Aid, and Walgreens so that they may begin vaccinating patients and staff at long term care facilities. Those vaccinations are scheduled to commence December 21. UVM Health Center will begin vaccinating high risk staff today. Other hospitals should begin vaccinating high risk medical staff tomorrow.

Vermont has pre-ordered 11,400 units of the Moderna vaccine which is pending approval and first shipments are expected here next week. By the end of this month VDH expects about 34,000 units of vaccine to have been delivered.

The state will be getting weekly shipments of vaccine. The second dose going to the 1A group will commence 21 days after the first dose.

The state has indicated that there are 50,000- 60,000 high risk health care, long term care staff and patients and others in health care that are listed in the "1A" priority vaccination list. Once these have been vaccinated attention will be provided to first responders, those over 65, and those under 65 with immune disorders. This will likely commence sometime in mid-late January.

As the supply from Pfizer and Moderna builds up, and others from Astra-Zeneca and Johnson and Johnson get approved, expect vaccine to begin general availability in the spring.

Vaccine – Off with the Masks?

Um...not so fast. There are unknowns. First, no one knows how long the vaccination will be effective. Secondly, no one knows that if you are vaccinated, whether or not you can still transmit any COVID you may be exposed to post-vaccination. And as with other vaccinations like Hep C, getting vaccinated doesn't guarantee the inoculation will be effective for any specific individual. There is no information presented at this time for a post-vaccination titer or test as with TB or Hep C to ascertain if the vaccination was effective. So should you get your COVID shot, you're not automatically 6' tall and COVID proof. Precautions will remain in place at least until fall. So don't go discarding your mask collection yet.

Still Dangerous Out There

10 months of COVID and the finish line is in sight but still on a distant horizon. 300,000 dead in the US including 100 in Vermont. And more to go. If you're an athlete in track you know what it means to give that final kick in the stretch. You bear down and "empty the tank" till you cross the finish line. Kind of what's needed here.

Masks

Just a reminder- though cloth masks are ubiquitous, there are still plain, white, boring cloth masks available for the asking at the Police Department. Be creative- tie-dye them, embroider them, color them....your only investment is stopping by police dispatch and asking- you shall receive. Get one- get a second one free (or more if you need them). Keep spares in your car. Keep a spare in your coat pocket. On a snowed-in winter day make it a craft project for the kids- fun for the whole family! And some day when this is all over you can revel your great grandkids with those masks while telling them all about the great pandemic of 2020.

Winter Storm

Just in time to rev up the holiday spirit and make all those lights out there brighten up the night even more with festive displays. It looks like we're above the worst of it, but weather is finicky – keep those propane and N/G vents clear, take care of your housebound elderly neighbors, and prepare to hunker down for a day or so if this coming weather beast does turn north.